

NASSAU COUNTY LEGISLATURE

NORMA GONSALVES,
PRESIDING OFFICER

FULL LEGISLATURE

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CHAIRWOMAN

1550 Franklin Avenue
Mineola, New York

April 13, 2015
1:30 p.m.

REGAL REPORTING SERVICES
516-747-7353

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STEVEN RHOADS

WILLIAM MULLER
Clerk of the Legislature

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2 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: I'm going to ask
3 Legislator Dunne to lead us in the Pledge.

4 (Whereupon, the Pledge of Allegiance was
5 recited.)

6 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: As is customary
7 at every Full Legislative meeting, my colleagues
8 and I like to recognize those in our communities
9 who do outstanding jobs. I'm going to begin with
10 the first individual, a member of the Nassau
11 County Police Department, who is being recognized
12 today for going over and above his line of
13 responsibility, and that individual is Police
14 Officer Nicholas Zaharis (phonetic). With us to
15 speak on behalf of the police officer is the
16 president of the PBA, James Carver. Mr. Carver.

17 MR. CARVER: Thank you, Norma. And
18 again, thank everybody on the legislature for
19 taking the time out to recognize the great work
20 that's performed by our men and women day in and
21 day out that unfortunately most of the public
22 don't get to witness. Again, I know that you
23 appreciate the work, and we appreciate your

support.

Also, before I get into the story, you have a lot of young men and women over here from the Intel Award winners. I know the one young man right over here, four Ivy League schools. Eight. I'm sorry. That's why I didn't go to an Ivy League school. Just to let you know, I failed that on my test. They asked me how many Ivy League schools; I said four. So. But anyway. Congratulations to all you guys, young men and women, that are making us proud here in Nassau County. Thank you, guys.

Now I get to talk about my guy, Nick Zaharis. He just celebrated ten years on the job last month, right, March. I got to tell you what. He's on the sergeant's list. He's a model police officer, someone that every kid, if you can't get into an Ivy League school, eight of them, maybe you want to decide to become a police officer. Anyway.

What happened was on November 10, 2014, a radio assignment was broadcast for a robbery with a shotgun that just occurred in Uniondale, which is within the boundaries of the First Precinct.

Responding police units broadcast a notification over the police radio giving a description of the subjects involved, as well as a description of their vehicle, including the plate numbers.

Officer Zaharis, who was on patrol and canvassing the area for the subjects, observed the vehicle fitting the description of the subject's vehicle which had the exact same license plate numbers from the notification. Officer Zaharis attempted to conduct the stop of the vehicle at which time the suspects fled. He continued to follow them. He went on the radio and asked for other assistance while he followed this vehicle. Remember, this is a notification that came out that an armed robbery with a shotgun just occurred.

Shortly thereafter, in the Village of Hempstead, the car stopped and all four subjects bailed out. Officer Zaharis didn't let that deter him from completing his job. He pursued the subjects, along with the other police officers, and they ultimately arrested all four subjects that were wanted for that armed robbery, recovering the shotgun and other weapons. Again,

normally you respond to a call and that's the end of it. You take the report and let the detectives -- but Police Officer Zaharis, knowing the description of this, was diligent, went around the area to search for this car to make sure that there was no other harm done to anybody else. He did this to a successful conclusion with nobody hurt. Again, a great job.

This is just a small example of the great work every day. And for that, Nick Zaharis is our Top Cop. Thank you.

The police commissioner would like to say a few words too.

ACTING COMMISSIONER KRUMPTER: Thank you, Jimmy.

First off, Legislator Gonsalves, I'd like to thank you and all the legislators for recognizing the great work that is done every single month by the Nassau County Police Officers.

Police Officer Zaharis' work that night can only be described as heroic. He stepped up. It was great police work. His observation led to the apprehension of four dangerous subjects. And

I would like to thank Police Officer Zaharis for all he does every single day. This is just one example of the great work that Officer Zaharis does, and the members of the First Precinct, and the members of the Nassau County Police Department do day in and day out. So thank you, Officer Zaharis. It is greatly appreciated for everything that you've done. Thank you.

And the Intel awardees, I'd be remiss if I didn't thank you. You are tomorrow's future. Congratulations. You should be very proud. Eight Ivy League schools. I'm going home and yelling at my 15 year old. He's in a lot of trouble.

Again, Legislator Gonsalves, thank you very much. All too often we forget about what the great work that the Nassau County Police Department's doing. It is the safest, largest community in America, and that is a tribute to the men and women of the Nassau County Police Department. Police Officer Zaharis is truly a hero. Thank you.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Officer Zaharis, would you come up here and join us for a photo.

Would you like to say something?

MR. CARVER: He's ready for a picture.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Without any further ado, I believe congratulations are in order for each and every one of the Intel winners. Of course, I would like to say congratulations to our friend there who made eight Ivy League universities. When I read it in the paper I said oh my god. I said well, I'm sure that you're very proud of what you've done and your family is just as proud. But you as Intel winners, you should be proud of being where you are and being here with us today.

Each of us are not fortunate to have an Intel finalist in our -- I believe it's semi-finalist -- in our districts, but I say no matter where you're from, it is a credit to your schools, your parents, and your teachers for doing such a great job.

Without any further ado, I will call on the legislators who are lucky enough to have winners in their districts. I will begin with Deputy Presiding Officer Richard Nicolello.

LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Thank you, Madam

Presiding Officer. I just wanted to echo her comments and congratulate all of our Intel semi-finalists today. It's truly a remarkable achievement on the parts of the students and the faculty of the schools that are producing these tremendous students who accomplish so much on an annual basis.

I have students from two schools today that I'd like to recognize, who are here today to receive awards. From Manhasset High School, Jessica Kim. Jessica, do you want to step up to the podium?

Jessica's project was entitled Improving the Efficiency of Inverted Solar Cells with Gold Grapheme and Styrofoam. Her project was intended to reduce the cost of solar cell panels, allowing them to be a competitive alternative to today's fossil fuel markets. She plans to attend Harvard University this fall to study material science and engineering. Congratulations, Jessica. I don't know if you want to say anything. You'll pass. I'll be down in a moment to present the citation.

I also wanted to recognize the principal

of Manhasset High School, Dean Schlanger, who is here, right over there; Tom Elkins, who is the district coordinator for Science and Technologies. Congratulations.

Just briefly, there are two other students who were unable to appear from Manhasset High School, including Typer Yom and Emma Dong. And I want to congratulate them as well.

Jessica, I'll be down in one moment with the citation. I just want to recognize the other students that I have.

From Mineola High School, we're very proud to recognize Charlotte Ring. Charlotte. Charlotte's project is assessing soil erosion through runoff and water drop tests under acid rain attack. The project is intended to study the acid levels in the rain and its effects on our soil.

Charlotte plans on attending the University of Chicago in the fall to study geology.

Congratulations, Charlotte.

In attendance with Charlotte are the principal of Mineola High School, Edward Escobar,

Assistant Principal Whitney Smith, and her research teacher, Dr. Ellen McLaid McCullar.

Last but not least, I also want to recognize another student from Mineola who also was a semi-finalist who could not be here today, Monika Dharria.

Thank you very much. Congratulations, Charlotte and Jessica.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Legislator Dunne.

LEGISLATOR DUNNE: I'm really happy to introduce my Intel award recipient. He's such a great guy. I was talking to him before. Not only is he a smart guy, he plays the violin, is the managing editor of the school newspaper. His mom looks at him with such loving eyes. He's not a momma's boy but he sure is loved by momma. He's joined by -- would you -- Pavithran Ravindran is our award winner. Would the principal, Mr. Voles, come up with him also, and mom.

I'd like you to tell us what your project is.

MR. RAVINDRAN: Hello, everyone. I just wanted to thank you first for inviting me here

today.

My project was entitled the formation of poly(3-hydroxybutyrate) inclusion compounds with urea. Basically, PHB is a biodegradable polymer that can be used for a lot of medical purposes, especially with biodegradable sutures or time-released drug capsules. However, these applications cannot be commercialized because of the fact that PHB is extremely brittle. So I spent my summer trying to reduce this brittleness, and I was successfully able to do so.

LEGISLATOR DUNNE: Absolutely incredible. Tim Voels has tremendous athletic programs at Clarke High School, and their music program is phenomenal, and we also have brains there. Which Ivy League school are you going to?

MR. RAVINDRAN: I got accepted into Princeton University.

LEGISLATOR DUNNE: Princeton University. Okay. Thank you so much. Thank you.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Legislator Jacobs and Legislator Schaefer are joining together in

2 recognition of their semi-Intel finalist. Okay.
3 Whoever goes first.

4 LEGISLATOR JACOBS: I just want to say
5 that it's always a thrill to be here on this day
6 because you'll notice from the faces, we're in
7 awe of everything we hear that these young people
8 have done. This time, Plainview-Old Bethpage
9 High School has somebody by the name of Arielle
10 Gabalski, who is a lovely, intelligent, brilliant
11 young woman, and we're very proud to have her in
12 Plainview. Laura.

13 LEGISLATOR SCHAEFER: I am proud as
14 well. I'm very happy to have you here today.
15 And I want to congratulate you for doing such a
16 wonderful job.

17 Also with her is her research teacher,
18 Mr. Tesar, and her principal, James Murray, from
19 John F. Kennedy High School.

20 LEGISLATOR JACOBS: Let's go down and
21 we'll take a picture.

22 LEGISLATOR SCHAEFER: Okay. Arielle,
23 can you come up to the podium and explain what
24 your project is about, as well?

25 MS. GABALSKI: Hello. Thank you for

having me.

My project was to determine whether priming the right anterior superior temporal gyrus of the brain could effectively facilitate one's cognitive problem solving ability.

LEGISLATOR SCHAEFER: I was going to do that too. You took it from me.

And what college are you going to?

MS. GABALSKI: I'm going to UCLA.

LEGISLATOR SCHAEFER: Congratulations. Great job.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Legislator Rhoads, you have a semi-Intel finalist as well.

LEGISLATOR RHOADS: Thank you, Madam Presiding Officer. Actually, I am fortunate in my district to have three of our Intel semifinalists, two of which unfortunately weren't able to be here, but I do want to mention their projects.

All three, incidentally, are from Bellmore JFK High School.

First is Samuel Epstein. And the purpose of his study was to determine if the presence of microbes and the manipulation of genes in a

pathway that senses nutrient levels can reduce dietary intake. And the data to him suggested that altering the genetic of the TRO pathway directly impacts feeding and that this effect is influenced by the presence of specific micro organisms. His research will actually provide insight in determining the factors that play vital roles in slowing the aging process, which is something that as I get older I become more and more interested in.

Congratulations to Samuel.

Also not able to be present with us today is Justine Shapiro, also from Bellmore JFK High School. His study uses statistical analysis to search for correlations between annual revenue figures and a corporation's commitment to climate change mitigation. The novel findings of his study demonstrate that corporations include climate change in mitigation techniques in their business strategies, but the decision to adopt those techniques in the aftermath of adoption have minimal correlations to revenue figures. In the future, his data suggests that government should do more to make climate change mitigation

strategies more profitable for large corporations. Congratulations, Justin. Great job.

And I am very pleased - and I would ask to come forward - Beatrice Brown. Big hand for Beatrice.

Now, I had the opportunity to chat briefly with Beatrice a little earlier today. She is quite a remarkable young woman, an accomplished flautist, and also is choosing between - and I wish I had had this choice - is choosing between Harvard and Yale to attend; she's leaning towards Yale. But I also want to, in addition to Beatrice, I want to recognize her parents who are here as well, if they can stand, and also Robert Soule, the district science chairman, Lorraine Poppe, the principal at Bellmore JFK High School, Barbara Franklin, and Barbi Frank, who are the science teachers. A big round for them as well.

Beatrice, I had the description of your findings and it's way over my head. But can you explain to us what your project was about?

MS. BROWN: Sure. First of all, thank

you all for having me here.

My project was entitled forecasting hurricane hazards for the Long Island area. My family was actually flooded by both Irene and Sandy. We were displaced for an entire year due to Sandy, actually. So this really motivated me to study the probability of hurricanes hitting the Long Island area. Upon reading previous literature, I had noticed that there were no models to predict hurricanes for a specific area, more so a basin wide area such as the Atlantic Ocean. And those types of predictions don't really help local areas determine their risk in a given year. So my study aimed to create a novel prediction model to determine the probability of the Long Island area being hit in a given year. I was very happy that my model was successful in being able to determine the probability of a storm hitting in a given year.

LEGISLATOR RHOADS: Congratulations.

LEGISLATOR FORD: So what are we looking for for this summer? I represent an area that was badly hit by Sandy. What are your findings?

MS. BROWN: What was interesting was the

2 model was able to predict the probability of
3 every storm that has hit Long Island in the past.
4 The model is still at a peak, with the
5 probability of about one, which means that a
6 storm definitely can occur.

7 LEGISLATOR FORD: Okay. Anything like
8 Sandy coming?

9 MS. BROWN: See, it's not really
10 deterministic. It's more just problemalistic.
11 So while we know there's a probability of a
12 storm, not definite that a storm will occur in a
13 given year. Possible.

14 LEGISLATOR FORD: Thank you very much.

15 MS. BROWN: You're welcome. Thank you.

16 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Legislator
17 Jacobs.

18 LEGISLATOR JACOBS: I am very fortunate
19 because I have four school districts and all have
20 a winner. I am so proud of that. Let's talk
21 about Jericho High School first.

22 Jericho High School, of their three
23 winners, happens to have two finalists, Len Li
24 and Crystal Zheng. Crystal is with us. Crystal,
25 would you come up first?

Crystal, normally I would read what you did, but I am not sure that I can. So, would you tell us in a couple of sentences what your project was?

MS. LI: Sure. I'm actually Ien. Crystal couldn't be here today.

LEGISLATOR JACOBS: I'm sorry. Ien. Ien Li. I apologize. I thought we had Crystal. I apologize.

MS. LI: It's okay.

LEGISLATOR JACOBS: Yours is pretty good. I probably could have read yours. I'd rather you say it.

MS. LI: Okay. So I used brain imaging and clinical assessment data to discovery that different brain abnormalities underlie different symptoms of major depressive disorder. So hopefully this increases understanding of the heterogeny of depression will inform clinical treatment and diagnosis in the future.

Thank you.

LEGISLATOR JACOBS: That's so impressive. We are so proud of you.

Have you decided which school you're

going to be going to?

MS. LI: I'm debating between Princeton and Stanford.

LEGISLATOR JACOBS: That is phenomenal. It really is. And you're here with your principal.

And I'd like to also call up Steven Zheng, who I know is here. Steven, perhaps you could tell us about your project.

MR. ZHENG: Thank you for having me here today. So my project was about mitigating climate change. And what I did was I developed a novel compound that can very selectively absorb CO₂, the main contributor to global warming, in a very efficient manner for incarment capturing storage.

LEGISLATOR JACOBS: Well, that's good. Thank you.

We love this day because it puts us right where we belong. I think our future is in good hands when we hear from all of you.

And what school are you going to be going to?

MR. ZHENG: I'll be attending the

2 University of Pennsylvania.

3 LEGISLATOR JACOBS: That's wonderful.
4 Congratulations.

5 So that, I believe, covers Jericho.

6 Crystal is the one who -- let me just
7 see. Actually, she did work on spine collapse;
8 am I correct in this? I'm going to try to do
9 this the right way. A collapsible type of
10 mechanism that could help for a person who has
11 problems with spine. Am I right? I'm right.
12 Okay. I'm putting it in my English.

13 We are so thrilled to have you. And
14 we're so proud of Jericho all the time, and
15 Plainview, and now Syosset. Luckily, there are
16 two of us who share Syosset, Legislator Don
17 MacKenzie and myself.

18 Are Syosset people still here? Good.
19 Okay. Can I ask all three of you to come up and
20 then you'll explain your projects? That would be
21 great.

22 So we have Vivienne. Vivienne, I was
23 wondering if you could tell us about your
24 project.

25 MS. ZHONG: Hi, everyone. My project

was instyle linguistics. I did my research on whether or not the use of modern communications affects the complexity of a person's use of language. And so what I found is that even though there were generational gaps between the complexity of language use, the older subjects tended to use more complex vocabulary than the younger ones. Within each age group there was not enough difference between those who used modern communication and those who didn't to indicate that our use of Facebook, texting or instant messaging has any immediate effect on the development of the English language. So don't worry.

LEGISLATOR JACOBS: Good. Did you choose your school yet?

MS. ZHONG: Sorry. What?

LEGISLATOR JACOBS: Your school that you're going to?

MS. ZHONG: Yeah. I'm going to MIT.

LEGISLATOR JACOBS: Of course. That's great.

Then we have Divij Sharma.

MR. SHARMA: Hello. Thank you for

having me.

I did a particle physics research project. So I used a computer program to simulate and assess how protons behave in electric and magnetic fields. I found that the program's data was consistent with theoretical estimations, which means that the programs is of a sufficient accuracy that it can be used for other similar physics projects, which would save time and money that would be other be spent, on the orders of billions of dollars, on physical experimentation.

LEGISLATOR JACOBS: That's great. And what school are you going to?

MR. SHARMA: U.C. Berkley.

LEGISLATOR JACOBS: Wonderful. That's great.

The next person we have is Ridoy Majumdar. Did I say it right?

MR. MAJUMDAR: First name perfect. That was spot on.

LEGISLATOR JACOBS: I'm sorry. If you could tell us a little bit about your project.

MR. MAJUMDAR: Sure. Thanks for having

me.

My project, I created a platform for brain guided prosthetics by which physically impaired patients could control robotic arms using their thoughts. It was non-invasive, effective both logically and empirically, and also was self-adjusting using machine learning alga-rhythms from user to user. Also, there is something else, I forgot. Also, I compared my results with a literature review from late 2014 with other brain computer interfaces that had a similar approach to mine, and I found that my alga-rhythm and my entire system had better classification accuracies than most of the published literature.

LEGISLATOR JACOBS: You're wonderful. And where are you going to be going? What school have you chosen?

MR. MAJUMDAR: I currently have committed anywhere yet. I may go to either Georgia Tech or Carnegie Melon Computer Science.

LEGISLATOR JACOBS: Beautiful.

Legislator MacKenzie, would you like to say something to them?

LEGISLATOR MACKENZIE: Sure. It's really amazing to see these people who are so young and speaking on such relevant topics, and especially ones that will have practical applications to help all of us in the future. I congratulate all of you. Thank you for coming.

LEGISLATOR JACOBS: I still have more. I share the next group from Roslyn High School with Legislator DeRiggi-Whitton. I believe we have three people. Am I correct, we have all three here? Two. Two are here.

Would the two that are here, would you please come up? Tiffany and David, right? Tiffany, I know you're a finalist.

MS. SUN: Yes.

LEGISLATOR JACOBS: Which is unbelievable. Would you like to explain your project?

MS. SUN: Sure. I would first like to say that it's such an honor for myself, also David, and the rest of the Roslyn crew.

My project was entitled contemporary biases on the classic trolley problem, the effect of socio-economic status, attractiveness and

disability on sacrificed rate on the trolley problem.

I used a commonly used moral dilemma, called the trolley problem, through a psychological lens to look at discrimination that we have. And I found out people are more likely to sacrifice the individual on the track if she was disabled, if she was unattractive, and if she was low socio-economic status, which says a lot about society today.

LEGISLATOR JACOBS: Unfortunately.

MS. SUN: Yeah.

LEGISLATOR JACOBS: And what school are you going to be going to?

MS. SUN: The University of Pennsylvania.

LEGISLATOR JACOBS: Congratulations.

LEGISLATOR DeRIGGI-WHITTON: The trolley, just explain what that part was.

MS. SUN: It's a moral dilemma, in which there is a runaway trolley barreling down the tracks on which five individuals are tied, and there is a bystander, in which my case was the participant, and he has the option of flipping a

switch that can lead onto an alternate track.

But on that alternate track still lies one individual, so that's the person whose character is manipulated. The question is essentially what would you do?

LEGISLATOR DeRIGGI-WHITTON:

Interesting. Thank you.

David Jaslow, is that correct?

MR. JASLOW: Yeah, that's right.

LEGISLATOR DeRIGGI-WHITTON: Would you mind explaining what you did as well? And congratulations.

MR. JASLOW: Thank you very much. And thank you, guys, for having us.

My project was entitled saving for the good life, a study of how to increase savings for retirement. And what my project did was I basically created a new version of a 401k plan, manipulating three different variables, which was the number of funds that are presented, the title of the plan itself, and whether or not an opt-in or an opt-out plan was offered. I basically gave my participants a fictional job with a fictional salary and gave them different versions of my

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2 401k plan to see how we can get Americans to save
3 more and save at a higher rate.
4 LEGISLATOR DeRIGGI-WHITTON: And where
5 are you going to school?
6 MR. JASLOW: I'll be attending Cornell
7 University.
8 LEGISLATOR DeRIGGI-WHITTON: Cornell
9 University.
10 MR. JASLOW: Yes.
11 LEGISLATOR DeRIGGI-WHITTON:
12 Congratulations.
13 MR. JASLOW: Thank you.
14 LEGISLATOR DeRIGGI-WHITTON: And we are
15 so proud of all of you.
16 LEGISLATOR JACOBS: That's it.
17 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Legislator
18 Solages.
19 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Thank you. Good
20 afternoon everyone. Good afternoon to all of the
21 Intel Semifinalists. With you as our future, our
22 future is very bright.
23 I have the distinct honor and pleasure of
24 recognizing a young man who I met in my district,
25 who helped me distribute flyers about the dangers

of having certain things in our neighborhood.

And although he was at the top of his class, he was very humble. I'd like to recognize Mr.

Harold Ekeh as this year's Intel Semifinalist from the Elmont Memorial High School District. I would like to thank Superintendent Berry and Principal Capozzi, who could not be here today, and I'd also like to recognize his mother, who is a mother to five young men. She deserves a round of applause.

Harold emigrated here from Niagara at the age of eight. He is a proud representation of how the American Dream is still alive and still very strong. Despite wherever you may come from, whoever you may be, that you can achieve anything you want in this country as long as you put your mind to it and your heart and soul. And I thank you. You have done more than just have gotten into eight Ivy League schools, Harold. You have inspired and made an entire community proud, the Elmont community, and also the entire Third Legislative district proud of why we are here in Nassau paying these high taxes, because we want our young people to lead. And we want to provide

every opportunity for them.

Harold's project was on the mitochondrial depletion of DNA. And I'd like for you to explain more on that.

Again, personally, I thank you. You show that Elmont is a great community, a community that produces assemblywomen under the age of 30, a community that represents, a community that produces so many hardworking people who just want something better.

Please, if I may ask my colleagues at this moment, to please stand up and congratulate him.

Thank you, Harold. In this world with a lot of bad news, you show that good news does prevail. Harold, if you'd like to say a couple of words.

MR. EKEH: Yes. Thank you. First of all, I'd like to thank you for having me. It's such an honor to be here representing my school and my community in such a positive light.

My investigation was on the role of PARP-1 in MeHg-induced dopaminergic dysfunction and mitochondrial DNA depletion. We know that methyl

mercury causes many neuro-toxic effects; however, we don't know what pathways are involved, so that's what I focused my study on. Ultimately, I found that through deactivation of this enzyme you can prevent the neurotoxic effects that cause Parkinson's Disease and Alzheimer's Disease.

Thank you.

LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Harold, if you could share with everyone -- I was trying to push that you go to Georgetown, where I went to. If you could please explain to everybody where you'll be going in the fall.

MR. EKEH: Before this, I just like to, first of all, say thank you to the community. This is an accomplishment not really for me but for my school. I want to thank my strong support system at Elmont Memorial High School.

I am currently undecided right now. But I have good problems. I have a lot of options. I'm currently choosing between MIT, Harvard University, Yale University, and Princeton University.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Legislator

Birnbaum.

LEGISLATOR BIRNBAUM: Okay. I think I may be the last one. Last but not least by any means.

As a proud mother of three grown children who each participated in Great Neck North High School Science Research Program, I know what a terrific program it is. And we have two semifinalists here today.

The first one is Monica Beeferman. She did a project, and I practiced this, intracellular crosstalk in protein aggregation of E. coli cells: An examination of the proteostatis network. Good? Okay.

I know you wanted to study what led to some kind of disease, such as muscular dystrophy. Would you explain to us what you did? And I know Monica is here today with her mother, her proud mother, and her research teacher, Ms. Chest.

MS. BEEFERMAN: Thank you for having me. I studied protein folding in E.coli cells. So, proteins fold in neurocells to maintain stability and function properly. When proteins don't fold correctly, it can cause many different diseases,

including Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, Huntington's, Muscular Dystrophy, and some forms of cancer as well. So I looked at why proteins are not folding correctly and found that there's -- I tested for the presence of a proposed model and found that it exists in E.coli cells which, with future research, could potentially help to explain what's going on with all of these diseases.

LEGISLATOR BIRNBAUM: That's terrific. And what school are you going to be going to?

MS. BEEFERMAN: I'll be studying biomedical engineering at Northwestern University.

LEGISLATOR BIRNBAUM: Great. Our next semifinalist from Great Neck North is Jessie Lin. And I think her title for her project is perhaps the easiest one: top-down and bottom-up interaction in spoken word recognition. Would you like to come up and explain it to us?

MS. LIN: Thank you for having me. My project studied the mechanisms for spoken word recognition, specifically for new words. So

recognition of new words in language is a task that we find relatively easy but it's actually very difficult for computers and the hearing impaired. I'd hoped that my results would be able to be applied to develop better artificial intelligence and hearing aids in the future.

Thank you.

LEGISLATOR BIRNBAUM: Jessy has a really tough decision to make too about colleges. What are you considering?

MS. LIN: I'm currently deciding between MIT, Stanford, and Harvard.

Thank you.

LEGISLATOR BIRNBAUM: I'd just like to mention that I had two other semifinalists from the Great Neck South High School who were unable to make it here today, and they are Robin Jang and Jay Zussman. So I want to congratulate both of them as well.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Legislator Schaefer.

LEGISLATOR SCHAEFER: I just had one other semifinalist that I also wanted to congratulate who was unable to attend. His name

is Brandon Choi. He's from Garden City High School. His project, this is a dozy, is called Berberine, in conjunction with salicin and glycine, attenuates the effects of lipopolysaccharides on immune cells. So if anybody here knows what that is other than the students sitting here, I'll get a citation made up for you right now.

Anyway, I just wanted to say congratulations to Brandon.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: With that, that ends our points of personal privilege. And I will say once again to the Intel Semifinalists and the finalist, as well as the young man who made eight schools and certainly shocked the living daylights out of all of us, congratulations and continued success in whatever you. And don't forget where you came from. God bless you and stay safe.

We're on to the public participation session of the legislature. But I will give those of you who need to leave a chance to take your leave. I'll begin to call those who put in slips to speak, and there are quite a few of you.

2 While we're waiting, would you like to
3 call the roll, Mr. Muller?

4 CLERK MULLER: Deputy Presiding Officer
5 Nicolello?

6 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Here.

7 CLERK MULLER: Alternate Deputy
8 Presiding Officer Kopel?

9 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Here.

10 CLERK MULLER: Legislator Bynoe.

11 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Here.

12 CLERK MULLER: Legislator Solages? He's
13 here.

14 Legislator Ford?

15 LEGISLATOR FORD: Here.

16 CLERK MULLER: Legislator Curran?

17 LEGISLATOR CURRAN: Here.

18 CLERK MULLER: Legislator Becker?

19 LEGISLATOR BECKER: Present.

20 CLERK MULLER: Legislator Muscarella?

21 LEGISLATOR MUSCARELLA: Here.

22 CLERK MULLER: Legislator Birnbaum?

23 LEGISLATOR BIRNBAUM: Here.

24 CLERK MULLER: Legislator DeRiggi-
25 Whitton?

LEGISLATOR DeRIGGI-WHITTON: Here.

CLERK MULLER: Legislator Kennedy?

LEGISLATOR KENNEDY: Here.

CLERK MULLER: Legislator Schaefer?

LEGISLATOR SCHAEFER: Here.

CLERK MULLER: Legislator Dunne?

LEGISLATOR DUNNE: Here.

CLERK MULLER: Legislator Jacobs?

LEGISLATOR JACOBS: Here.

CLERK MULLER: Legislator Walker?

LEGISLATOR WALKER: Here.

CLERK MULLER: Legislator Mackenzie?

LEGISLATOR MACKENZIE: Here.

CLERK MULLER: Legislator Rhoads?

LEGISLATOR RHOADS: Here.

CLERK MULLER: Minority Leader Abrahams?

LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Here.

CLERK MULLER: Presiding Officer

Gonsalves?

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Present.

CLERK MULLER: We have a quorum.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: I think everyone

has had an opportunity to make their exit. So we

will begin with public participation. As is

customary, we allot 30 minutes. I do ask people to keep to the three minute limit because I do have lots of slips. I will call those items that are not on those slips on issues that are not on the calendar. Those items that are on the calendar can wait until we do the item on the full legislature.

Minority Leader Abrahams.

LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Thank you, Madam Presiding Officer.

I do know and recognize that is the normal course of practice, that we normally do not call anyone from the public on items that are on the calendar for today. However, there are dozens and dozens of folks here from the Uniondale community that I know have conflicts with their schedules. I would ask in the interest of making sure that we have an open process that we at least ask those folks who do have conflicts, who did take time off from work to be here to be able to speak in the first 30 minutes, I would ask for that indulgence.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: So granted.

LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Thank you.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: I'm going to begin with Ramona - I'm looking at the last name - Galiano from Uniondale, who would like to speak on language access. Is Ramona here?

(No verbal response.)

Griselle Rivera Mucciola.

VOICES: She stepped out for a second.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Okay. I'll just hold it there.

Steve McFarland. Steve? Come on, Steve.

MR. MCFARLAND: I'm going to cede my time to folks that need to leave actually. Thank you very much.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: I didn't hear what you said, Steve.

MR. MCFARLAND: I will cede my time to the folks who need to leave.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Okay. Fine.

State your name for the record, please.

Keiko Cervantes-Ospina from the New York Legal Assistance Group. I am here today with my client. And just for efficiency of time, she has to leave. I'm going to let her tell her story first. We do ask for an indulgence. I have to

translate. She is limited English proficient.

MS. ROACH: My name is Daisy Rocha. I'm here to shed light on a problem that I think is the biggest problem for us, who don't speak English in this country.

I applied at Social Services. I have a U.S. citizen born daughter. My biggest problem is that I don't speak English. I applied with my daughter for social services because I lost my job. Again, I'll repeat that my biggest problem in getting these services is that I don't speak English. I've repeated to exhaustion to everyone, if they could please send all notices to my home in Spanish but they continue to send them in English. To date, all notices I receive are in English.

MS. CERVANTES-OSPINA: Presiding Officer Gonsalves, members of the legislature and staff, good afternoon. Thank you for the opportunity to speak here today. As I said, I'm here from the New York Legal Assistance Group. I'm a supervising attorney. Daisy Roach is one of our clients.

We are here to talk about language access

in Nassau County. We do commend County Executive Ed Mangano for his 2013 executive orders dealing with language access in Nassau County. However, we believe that compliance has not been uniform across all county agencies and that necessary changes can result in even more efficient, equitable programs that will better achieve the goals of providing access.

Mr. Roach's example is one where she went to Nassau County Department of DSS and she was denied access to a competent, bilingual interpreter, as required by the executive orders, and, therefore, also her right to representation and her food stamps were an issue, something that her family relies on.

Ms. Roach's meeting at the DSS office did not comply with local or state protections or with Executive Orders 67 and 72, initialing resulting in an adverse decision. If not for the advocacy of our office, her family would not currently have the food stamp benefits that they rely on.

NYLAG really urges you to consider that limited English efficient applicants are also pro

se or without an attorney, and they don't have the means in order to reverse detrimental decisions.

I thank you for the opportunity to speak here today. Thank you very much.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Thank you.

LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Madam Presiding Officer, just real briefly.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Okay.

LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Thank you. Good afternoon. I want to thank you very much for coming here to the legislature to present that information. As a person who represents a district that has a growing population in which people speak farcie and also Haitian Creole, I'm very concerned about that complaint. I would also appreciate it if you could send any concerns along these lines to my office in order to address this.

This is an issue, as you said, of compliance; us upholding the law that we set ourselves to.

So thank you very much for bringing that. Thank you.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Jacqueline
Saredra. Are you Jacqueline?

MS. MUCCIULO: No, I'm Griselle.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Who are you?

MS. MUCCIULO: Griselle Rivera, you just
called me. Sorry. I stepped out to the lady's
room.

Good afternoon. I'm here regarding the
advocate - the language access order. I work for
people with disabilities in Nassau County, and
the implementation of the language access order
will enable my limited English proficient
consumers to have the quality of life they
deserve and live more independently and actively
by participating in their communities.

Without language accessibility, my
consumers can't obtain vital benefits, such as
food from food stamps, medical insurance, medical
transportation, and cash assistance from the
Department of Social Services. Also, the
handicapped parking permit, they cannot get it if
they don't have language access available to
them.

In recent weeks we have done several test

scores to see if the language access order is being implemented. We called the Office for the Physically Challenged and we were not able to get any information in other languages rather than English. So this is why I'm here today, to advocate for the language access order.

Thank you.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: I believe I have Greg Maney. I'm going out of order here. Is Greg here?

MR. MANEY: I have to go teach a class. Thank you for taking me on early.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: You're welcome.

DR. MANEY: My name is Dr. Greg Maney. I'm co-facilitator of the Greater Uniondale Action Coalition, a coalition consisting of 27 organizations in the Uniondale area with a combined membership of over 30,000 people. If you looked out at the front steps this morning, along with Legislators Abrahams and Bynoe, you would have seen a large number of people calling upon you to do the right thing by Uniondale as the host community at the Nassau Veteran's Memorial Coliseum. We were joined by many concerned

residents from adjacent areas, including the Village of Hempstead and East Meadow.

We call upon you to require as a condition for amending the Coliseum lease that Forest City Ratner, through its shell company NEC, enter into a formal written community benefits agreement with Nassau County and the Greater Uniondale Area Action Coalition as signatories.

It would be shocking, it would be shocking if you amend this lease to benefit an outside developer and foreign investors while refusing to insist upon benefits for your taxpaying county constituents.

The arena is known as Nassau County Veteran's Memorial Coliseum because it is located on the former site of the Mitchel Field U.S. Army Air Force Base. When the issue of where to send the children of the racially diverse military families arose, Garden City refused to integrate their schools. Uniondale, however, welcomed and embraced these families. Don't you think that you owe it to these heroes to go beyond the naming of the arena in their honor to actually

have the redevelopment benefit rather than harm the community where some of these veterans and their descendents still live today.

Forest City Ratner is coming in and extracting wealth from local residents, competing with locally owned businesses and imposing extra burdens in the host community. Mr. Ratner's idea of community benefits for Uniondale and adjacent communities, like East Meadow and Village of Hempstead, is more traffic, more noise, more pollution, part-time service jobs, retail chain outlets. Is this acceptable to you, as our elected representatives? If so, you should consider looking for another line of work come next election. We will be sure to inform your constituents of how you vote today.

We want the redevelopment of the Nassau Veteran's Memorial Coliseum to succeed. The community benefits agreement that we are calling for promotes this success by increasing disposable income in the area for years to come, some of which income will certainly be spent at the Coliseum. Uniondale has an abundance of human and other social assets that, if properly

synergized with and expanded by recent development projects, can make it the center of a regional healthcare and bio-tech corridor with international connectivity.

With over 40 percent of our population born in other countries, Uniondale welcomes immigrants into the United States. We are a true global village and celebrate our diversity as our strength. It is only right and proper that the county and Forest City Ratner Company support us in serving this vital integrative function by helping us to beautify Uniondale Avenue, acquire and rehab zombie homes, create a small business incubator, extend our community center, and provide STEM internships for our young adults.

CLERK MULLER: Your three minutes have expired, sir.

DR. MANEY: Okay. We don't think your support for these modest projects is too much to ask for.

We caution you as our representatives not to be dazzled by the bright lights and hypes of a major developer. During the Nassau County legislative meeting to vote on the original

lease, Mr. Ratner testified, when he was being questioned by Legislator Abrahams, that he would enter into a community benefits agreement; now that the lease has been approved, he's reversed course. He has also misled the Long Island based Blumenthal Development Group into thinking they were partners in redeveloping the Coliseum. If you pass an amended lease without a CBA requirement, you enable and embold Mr. Ratner to engage in further deception.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Would you please wrap it up?

DR. MANEY: I'm almost done. I'm almost done.

This would not bode well for the future of Nassau County Veteran's Memorial Coliseum or the future of Long Island.

This is your opportunity to hold Mr. Ratner accountable.

What we are requesting is reasonable and fair. The 90 million in foreign investment will lower the interest paid by Forest City Ratner on the capital project, resulting in a wider margin of profit.

All we are calling upon you to do is to strike a reasonable balance between developer profits and social responsibility.

FCRC has entered into community benefit agreements with other projects, including the Barclay Center. If Brooklyn is good enough and other communities are good enough for a CBA, isn't Long Island deserving of a CBA?

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Dr. Maney, will you please wrap it up?

DR. MANEY: Do the right thing by Long Island and your taxpaying constituents.

Thank you.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Reverend Ken Graham.

REVEREND GRAHAM: Good afternoon. My name is Reverend Ken Graham. I am a Presbyterian minister and member of the Presbyteries of Long Island. I am currently working at or volunteering at the First Presbyterian Church in Baldwin.

Harriet Tubman once said, "I had crossed the line of which I so long have been dreaming. I was free. But then there was no one to welcome

me to the land of freedom. I was a stranger in a strange land."

Providing full language accessibility in Nassau County breaks down walls and barriers to immigrants as they seek not only to participate but to contribute to our community and to our economy.

The Presbyterian Church, which has approximately 55 congregations on Long Island, half of which are in Nassau County, prides itself in its efforts to welcome strangers within their midst. We trust the County to also share in this endeavor and in this commitment to providing full language accessibility. And I trust that we all saw the connection from our -- earlier from our students, the Intel finalists, and the importance of helping support students and young people to make Nassau County a place that is a place that we all are proud of and all want to continue to live in.

Thank you very much.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: You're welcome,
Reverend Graham.

Janine Maynard.

VOICES: She had to leave.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Jackeline Sareda.

MS. SAREDA: Yes. Good afternoon. My name is Jackeline Sareda, and I work at the Empire Justice Center and Long Island Language Advocates Coalition.

I have a letter here that I would like to ask the members of the Legislature to show your support for language access by signing onto it. This letter is addressed to County Executive Ed Mangano.

I would like to approach you.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Give it to the clerk.

MS. SAREDA: Okay. I'm just going to briefly read the letter. It says:

Dear County Executive Mangano: We, the undersigned legislators of Nassau County, commend you for signing Nassau County Executive Orders 67 and 72 in 2013. These orders were designed to ensure language access at county agencies for over 125,000 of our limited English proficient constituents. Ensuring meaningful access to law enforcement, social services, healthcare,

emergency services, housing supports and programs for the elderly, youth, veterans and people with disabilities is of paramount importance and strengthens the quality of life for all members of our communities. We are therefore deeply troubled that the County is not enforcing implementation of Executive Orders 67 and 72, and that its agencies are not providing adequate interpretation services or translation of vital documents into the six most frequent languages, as promised.

This Legislature was embarrassed to learn from a coalition of community-based organizations that the county executive has repeatedly refused to meet with them to discuss problems with implementation of the orders and the resulting disservice to our constituents.

In addition, failure to provide language access at county agencies, which receive federal funding, is a violation of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 which states that, "No person in the United States shall, on the ground of race, color, or national origin, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or

otherwise be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving federal financial assistance." The Supreme Court in *Lau v. Nichols* determined that failure to provide language access is a form of national origin discrimination. The U.S. Department of Justice is charged with investigating complaints of violations of Title VI by recipients of federal funding, including municipalities.

We do not wish to see our county subjected to the embarrassment of a federal complaint alleging national origin discrimination nor the expense and possible sanctions resulting from a federal investigation by the U.S. Department of Justice.

We urge you to follow through appropriately on implementation of Executive Orders 67 and 72, to comply with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act, and to invest the necessary resources to ensure that all Nassau County residents will be provided with equal access to county government and county agencies forthwith, regardless of their language proficiency.

Thank you.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Thank you.

Mary Ellen Kreye, is it - K-R-E-Y-E.

MS. KREYE: Good afternoon. I request postponement of the resolution until we can get some change in the wording.

Forest City Ratner promised to enter into a community benefits agreement when awarded the contract to renovate Nassau Veteran's Memorial Coliseum. That promise has been abrogated. Now, before, before, before the new lease and this EB-5 funding is approved, we need to have a CBA written, written into this new resolution.

This EB-5 investment is defined for economically distressed places. Uniondale is your justification for EB-5 funding in the first place. It is only fair and proper that we assure training and jobs for our residents, youth and adults. Assistance for the John J. Byrne Community Center, Uniondale, and other specifics mentioned previously.

While we appreciate the aspirations which prompt people in other countries to invest and migrate, we need to assure a prosperous future for our immigrant population and other Uniondale

residents. This is a purely business decision for our community and Nassau County.

Thank you.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Cheryl Keshner.

MS. KESHNER: Good afternoon.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Good afternoon.

MS. KESHNER: My name is Cheryl Keshner.

I work for the Empire Justice Center, and I am the coordinator of the Long Island Advocate Coalition. We're a coalition of advocates who are concerned about ensuring equal access to all community-based services, any government funded programs and services for people who are limited English proficient, and we seek to educate about the importance of that.

I'd just like to ask people who are here to support language access, to stand up to show that we're all together on this. There are several people who had to leave, but I'm asking that you stand up. Thank you.

In 2013, several of us began meeting with the Mangano administration, this was following Hurricane Sandy and the passage of a language access order in Suffolk County as well as in New

York City. We were asking that they do the same here in Nassau County because it's important that any government program or service be able to communicate with all members of the community and vice versa. And at that time they led us to believe that they were in agreement.

In the summer of 2013, County Executive Mangano signed Executive Orders 67 and 72, which were allegedly designed to guarantee translation and interpretation at the county agencies. Well, here we are now, it's 2015, April 2015 and those services are still not being provided.

Over the past week our coalition has conducted numerous visits and phone calls to county agencies, and the response that has been received has been horrific. People have been laughed at. People have been turned away. They've been told we don't speak that language here. It's appalling. We need your help.

I'm here to just give you an idea of what needs to be done in order to make this work.

Here's what we understood was going to happen, and here's what we understood what was going to happen, and here's what we're asking you

to support.

We're asking that all county agencies: assign a language access coordinator who has authority to ensure proper implementation of language access at those county agencies; that each county agency design a language access plan and procedure in writing; that all staff are thoroughly trained in how to assist limited English proficient individuals in a timely manner, without excessive delays; that a list of in-house interpreters is developed, not just people who speak a language but people who are fully proficient in that language, within each agency; and that the agencies contract with a professional interpreting service and translation services which can provide language assistance either by phone or in person in numerous languages; ensure that phone prompts and messages are accessible to speakers of languages other than English; translate all documents into the six most frequently used languages, other than English, in Nassau County; and under the executive order right now, those, based on the later Census figures, would be Spanish, Haitian

Creole, Farsey or Persian, Korean, simplified Chinese, and Italian; provide an accessible and reliable translation tool on all county websites; make sure the public is fully informed of the availability of interpretation services, and this includes the posting of multi-lingual do you need an interpreter signs at all public agencies.

CLERK MULLER: Your three minutes have expired, ma'am.

MS. KESHNER: Okay. Just give me -- I'll be done shortly.

And it is also imperative that the county officials charged with implementation and enforcement of the executive orders meet with advocates at least quarterly in order to provide status updates and discuss any existing problems. Failure to provide the necessary leadership on this issues as well as a lack of honest communication by the county executive's office has eroded trust between Nassau County government, government agencies, and the communities they are supposed to serve. Lack of adequate language services is detrimental to limited English proficient immigrants, to people

with disabilities, and also to our entire communities.

We are all more secure when everyone can receive the services they need and deserve and which they have a right to receive without discrimination under federal law.

One thing I do want to mention is in January 2014 there was a young woman by the name of Daisy Garcia in Jamaica, Queens. She went to the police at the 103 Precinct and on two occasions wrote down my husband is going to kill me and my children. The police did not take the time to translate that message. Her husband did kill her and her children. We do not want to have a Daisy Garcia here in Nassau County. We need change now. We ask your support, please.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: We are approaching the 30 minute mark, and I have time for one more speaker and that speaker is Pearl Jacobs.

MS. JACOBS: Good afternoon. My name is Pearl Jacobs.

LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Pearl, if I may.

MS. JACOBS: Yes.

LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: I'm sorry, Pearl.
I think there might be some confusion.

The presiding officer, at the beginning of every meeting, opens up the meeting for 30 minutes of public comment where you can talk about anything under the sun. She was kind enough to indulge the comments, some of the comments for the Coliseum project in that part. Normally we have that discussion when the item is called, which it will be called later. I say that because everyone that has provided a slip to speak, you will be able to speak. Because she's cutting off the public comment where you can talk about anything under the sun off now, because we provided the 30 minutes to start our calendar, does not mean you will not be able to speak. So I ask you to be patient and I ask you to stay with us so that you can have an opportunity to voice your concerns regarding the Coliseum project when the item is called for public comment at that time.

I'm sorry, Pearl, to interrupt you. I just wanted to make sure I explained.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: I want to just

confirm that.

Usually, if we have many more speakers, right after the calendar is done we stay here to listen to anyone else who has submitted a slip. So don't feel that you're being neglected or ignored. There will be an opportunity for anyone else who wishes to speak after the calendar is deliberated.

Go ahead, Pearl.

MS. JACOBS: Thank you. Yes. My name is Pearl Jacobs. I am a member of the Greater Uniondale Area Action Coalition, as well as I am the president of the Nostrand Garden Civic Association in Uniondale.

I am speaking on behalf of Uniondale and our neighboring communities, advocating for a community benefits agreement for Uniondale. As the host community, Uniondale will bear the brunt of the inconveniences that will result from the redevelopment of the Nassau Veteran's Memorial Coliseum - increased traffic, heavy duty equipment noise, and increased pollution, just to name a few. For these reasons alone, Uniondale and its adjacent communities should receive a

community benefits agreement to offset the additional inconveniences associated with the redevelopment project.

The Nassau Veteran's Memorial Coliseum is in Uniondale. Just like the Atlantic Yards received a CBA for the development of the Barclay Center in Brooklyn, Uniondale should receive a CBA for the redevelopment of the Nassau Coliseum, Memorial Coliseum.

We are demanding economic justice and corporate responsibility. We are calling upon our county legislators to make sure that the amended Coliseum lease benefits taxpaying residents as much as its benefits outside developers and foreign investors.

For too long Uniondale has been ignored and disrespected. We are not standing up for ourselves. We are advocating for our own community and we are advocating and speaking to our county representatives that you will vote for the benefit of Uniondale, a diverse community in Long Island, a long time diverse community in Long Island, and diverse communities matter.

The question of the day is why not Long

Island? Why not Uniondale.

Thank you.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Thank you, Pearl.

At this time we will begin the calendar for the fifth meeting of 2015, which is the 24th meeting. As always, we begin with the consent calendar, and that means there are items on the calendar that both sides of the aisle agreed to and we call them all at once. Then we will go back to those items that require discussion and require input from both sides of the aisle.

At this point, with the help of my colleagues, I'm going to begin the consent calendar. Just give me a minute to do so.

I'm going to call the consent calendar. As I said, this is the consent of both sides of the aisle on the items that I will call. These items, by the way, were offered in committees, and I ask the stenographer to please enter the testimony of those committees into the record.

(Whereupon, the following are the minutes of the committees of the prior committees pertaining to Item 3, Ordinance 34; Item 4, Ordinance 35; Item 5, Ordinance 36; Item 6,

Ordinance 37; Item 7, Ordinance 38; Item 8,
Ordinance 39; Item 9, Ordinance 40; Item 10,
Ordinance 41; Item 11, Ordinance 42; Item 12,
Ordinance 43; Item 13, Ordinance 44; Item 15,
Resolution 48; Item 16, Resolution 49; Item 17,
Resolution 50, Item 18, Resolution 51; Item 19,
Resolution 52; Item 20, Resolution 53; Item 25,
Resolution 58; Item 26, Resolution 59; Item 27,
Resolution 60; Item 28, Resolution 61; Item 29,
Resolution 62; Item 30, Resolution 63; Item 31,
Resolution 64; Item 32, Resolution 65; Item 33,
Resolution 66; Item 34, Resolution 67; Item 35,
Resolution 68.)

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: We can go to the
consent calendar and I'm going to call those
items and the testimony from the committees will
be incorporated into the Rules Committee and they
have all been vetted in the other committees.
Beginning with Item 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102,
103, 104, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113,
114, 116, 117, 118, 122, 125, 126, it looks like
134, and I believe on the agenda 135.

(Whereupon, the following are the minutes
of the Public Safety Committee pertaining to

Clerk Items 97, 108-110, 115, 125, 3-30-15.)

CHAIRMAN DUNNE: The first item to come before this committee is Item 97-15, a resolution authorizing the County Executive to execute an intermunicipal agreement with the County of Westchester, Department of Laboratories and Research to perform trace evidence examination for the County of Nassau, Medical Examiner's Office.

LEGISLATOR MACKENZIE: So moved.

LEGISLATOR FORD: Second.

CHAIRMAN DUNNE: Motion by MacKenzie, seconded by Denise Ford.

SERGEANT STEPHANOFF: Good afternoon. Sergeant Greg Stephanoff from the police department. This contract is with Westchester County to perform trace evidence analysis for Nassau County for \$15,000. Trace analysis could be hair fiber, footprint, paint chips, just to name a few, and they are going to take this analysis in cases and analyze it for us to help us solve cases.

CHAIRMAN DUNNE: It's a low costing contract, that's because our lab is going to be

able to do this soon, is that what the reason is?

SERGEANT STEPHANOFF: I got in touch with the ME's office. They are going to -- I don't know when they are going to pick up this part of it, but the next part that they're going to pick up is chemical and controlled substance, which is a more costly contract that we have now. So they're going to pick up that later on this year. They're working on all the disciplines.

CHAIRMAN DUNNE: Any time frame on when we are going to be finally a full blown lab?

SERGEANT STEPHANOFF: I can find out about this. They don't have a time frame for trace analysis. It is a small part. We don't send that much out.

CHAIRMAN DUNNE: Any other questions from any other legislators?

(No verbal response.)

Is there any public comment?

(No verbal response.)

There being none, all those in favor indicate by saying aye.

(Aye.)

Any against?

(No verbal response.)

That passes on to finance.

The next item is Item 108-15, an ordinance supplemental to the annual appropriations ordinance in connection with the Correctional Center.

May I have a motion, please?

LEGISLATOR MACKENZIE: So moved.

LEGISLATOR MUSCARELLA: Second.

CHAIRMAN DUNNE: Motion by MacKenzie, seconded by Muscarella. Who is here to speak about this?

CAPTAIN SATHER: Captain Keith Sather, Correctional Center. Item 108 is a supplemental appropriation in the amount of \$80,639. This represents the department's share of federal forfeiture money. Money is used for law enforcement equipment and training.

CHAIRMAN DUNNE: Anything specific or just general?

CAPTAIN SATHER: General. It could be anything from new vehicles for our K9 units, equipment, cert training.

CHAIRMAN DUNNE: Any questions from any

legislators? Legislator Denise Ford.

LEGISLATOR FORD: When you look at any type of equipment that you can purchase through this or any type of training, do you reach out to the union leadership to see if there is anything that you can work with them on, like something they need, something specific?

CAPTAIN SATHER: You have to understand that working within the purchasing department I take my direction from the sheriff. Any requests from the union would be made through the sheriff and then the sheriff would direct me to spend these monies.

LEGISLATOR FORD: So in case there is something special that they want, they can reach out to the sheriff and then hopefully he would be able to convey that to you, correct, and then if you can do within the purchase, within the confines of what you have, you would be able to do it, right?

CAPTAIN SATHER: Correct. As long as it falls within the guidelines of how we can spend that money and I've been directed to spend it that way, of course.

CHAIRMAN DUNNE: Any legislators have any other questions?

(No verbal response.)

Is there any public comment?

(No verbal response.)

There being none, all those in favor indicate by saying aye.

(Aye.)

Any against?

(No verbal response.)

Passes and goes on to Finance.

The next item is 109-15, an ordinance supplemental to the annual appropriations ordinance in connection with the Police Department.

LEGISLATOR MACKENZIE: So moved.

LEGISLATOR FORD: Second.

CHAIRMAN DUNNE: Motion Legislator MacKenzie, seconded by Legislator Ford.

SERGEANT STEPHANOFF: Good afternoon, Sergeant Greg Stephanoff again from the Police Department. This item appropriates \$40,881.37 of court ordered restitution that's paid to the department, and the money will be appropriated

back to narcotics for further cases.

CHAIRMAN DUNNE: Any legislators have any questions?

(No verbal response.)

Is there any public comment?

(No verbal response.)

There being none, all those in favor indicate by saying aye.

(Aye.)

Any against?

(No verbal response.)

Passes on to the Finance Committee.

The next item is Item 110-15, it's an ordinance supplemental to the annual appropriations ordinance in connection with the Department of Toxicology, the Medical Examiner.

LEGISLATOR MACKENZIE: So moved.

LEGISLATOR MUSCARELLA: Second.

CHAIRMAN DUNNE: Motion by MacKenzie, seconded by Muscarella. We have?

MR. HAHN: Timothy Hahn from the Medical Examiner. This is a grant in the amount of \$2,202. It is a federal pass through grant from New York State. It is used to support the

laboratory's accreditation and to reduce case
back log in the toxicology department.

CHAIRMAN DUNNE: Any legislators have any
questions?

(No verbal response.)

Is there any public comment?

(No verbal response.)

There being none, all those in favor
indicate by saying aye.

(Aye.)

Any against?

(No verbal response.)

Passes on to the Finance Committee.

CHAIRMAN DUNNE: The next item is Item
115-15, an ordinance amending Article 22 of the
Ordinance Number 56-1962, as amended,
constituting the Nassau County Fire Prevention
Ordinance and making certain determinations
pursuant to the State Environmental Quality
Review Act.

LEGISLATOR MACKENZIE: So moved.

LEGISLATOR MUSCARELLA: Second.

CHAIRMAN DUNNE: Motion by MacKenzie,
seconded by Muscarella. Who is here to speak on

this?

ASSISTANT CHIEF PRIEST: Good afternoon, legislators. John Priest, assistant chief of Nassau County Fire Marshal's Office. The document in front of you, the staff summary, is fairly self-explanatory. It is to increase certain fees. Article 22 is our fee schedule. It is to increase certain fees for various tests and plan review. Some of these fees which have not been raised since 2007.

CHAIRMAN DUNNE: Any questions from any of the legislators?

LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Are any of these fees applicable to residents?

ASSISTANT CHIEF PRIEST: No, sir. This would all be contractors, businesses, doing construction work and installing new systems.

LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Thank you.

CHAIRMAN DUNNE: Legislator Ford.

LEGISLATOR FORD: You said some of the fees have not been raised since 2007.

Are any of these fees, have they been raised in recent years, such as 2012?

ASSISTANT CHIEF PRIEST: The vast

majority were 2007. There is a group that was
2011.

LEGISLATOR FORD: Do you know the
percentage?

ASSISTANT CHIEF PRIEST: 75 percent 2007.

LEGISLATOR FORD: But 25 percent 2011?

ASSISTANT CHIEF PRIEST: That's correct.

LEGISLATOR FORD: Would we know which
ones were?

ASSISTANT CHIEF PRIEST: The 25 percent
with regard to plan review. And that percentage
is direct to manpower doing the plan review.

LEGISLATOR FORD: That would be then in
the course of the job, like they would do the
inspections, then review the plans submitted a
contractor?

ASSISTANT CHIEF PRIEST: The contractor
submits plans for the work, comes into our
office, gets assigned to a reviewer, et cetera.

LEGISLATOR FORD: But now the increase,
is that if it was during an eight to five day,
what about the fees when people want to have it
expedited? They end up paying more to expedite
it.

2 ASSISTANT CHIEF PRIEST: Both of the fees
3 are on the table. There is a flat fee for any
4 plan to get reviewed. And there is an optional
5 fee if a contractor decides they want it
6 expedited and we have to get it done within 10
7 business days.

8 LEGISLATOR FORD: Thank you very much.

9 CHAIRMAN DUNNE: Any other questions from
10 any other legislators?

11 Legislator Bynoe.

12 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Is the same fee
13 structure going to be imposed on small
14 businesses, I'm sorry, not-for-profit
15 organizations and day care centers?

16 ASSISTANT CHIEF PRIEST: There are
17 certain -- and I would have to go back to check,
18 based on the definition of not for profit, there
19 are certain fee exempt locations throughout the
20 county that obviously this would not affect.

21 But, again, it's also only, let us say, a
22 not for profit or a day care center is already in
23 business and running.

24 These fees are only for actions that they
25 might take to remodel, to expand, et cetera.

They are voluntary at some point, not the fee, but the decision to do the work. It's nothing that's required.

LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Thank you.

CHAIRMAN DUNNE: Just one thing from me, one comment from me. I was asked to mention that, is there going to be an attitude check with this increase in fees from the fire marshals? I understand on the north shore that they have a tremendous attitude when they go into people's businesses and they act really tough as nails and maybe it's no nonsense but it comes across real bad to the public.

ASSISTANT CHIEF PRIEST: Please, if you have anything specific, contact me and let's talk about it. If there are any complaints that are to be made, I want to know about it. So does Chief Tusa.

CHAIRMAN DUNNE: Any other questions from any other legislators?

(No verbal response.)

Is there any public comment?

(No verbal response.)

There being none, all those in favor

indicate by saying aye.

(Aye.)

Any against?

(Nay.)

Three nays? Still passes and goes on to Finance, 4 to 3.

The last item for today with our committee is Item 125-15, a resolution authorizing the County Executive to execute a grant agreement between the County of Nassau on behalf of the District Attorney's Office with MADD, Long Island, New York.

LEGISLATOR MACKENZIE: So moved.

LEGISLATOR FORD: Second.

CHAIRMAN DUNNE: Motion by MacKenzie, seconded by Denise Ford. And we have the District Attorney's Office here.

MR. MCMANUS: Yes. Bob McManus, District Attorney's Office. This item is a grant agreement for the District Attorney's Office to provide funding for Mother's Against Drunk Driving of Long Island in the amount of \$30,000 in federal forfeiture funds to help increase awareness regarding the issue of drunk driving.

The funding will be used for a direct mail campaign and media advertising and this is something that we have been doing on an annual basis now for approximately ten years.

CHAIRMAN DUNNE: Sometimes I hear it as Mother's Against Destructive Decisions; is that the same group?

MR. MCMANUS: It would be the same group.

CHAIRMAN DUNNE: Are there any questions from any legislators?

(No verbal response.)

Is there any public comment?

(No verbal response.)

There being none, all those in favor indicate by saying aye.

(Aye.)

Any nays?

(No verbal response.)

Passes unanimously and goes on to Finance.

(Whereupon, the following are the minutes of the Planning Committee pertaining to Clerk Item 126-15, 3-30-15.)

CHAIRWOMAN SCHAEFER: We have one item on

the agenda for today. It's Clerk Item 126-15 which is an ordinance making certain determinations pursuant to the State Environmental Quality Review Act and authorizing the county executive of the County of Nassau to accept on behalf of the County of Nassau an offer of purchase from 110 Graham Realty, L.L.C. of certain premises located in the Village of Hempstead, County of Nassau, State of New York, said property known as Section 34 Block G, Lot 620, 634 and part of Lot 638 on the land and tax map of the County of Nassau and authorizing the county executive to execute a deed contract of sale and all pertinent documents in connection therewith to consummate the sale.

Can I have a motion, please?

LEGISLATOR DUNNE: So moved.

LEGISLATOR RHOADS: Second.

CHAIRWOMAN SCHAEFER: Moved by Legislator Dunne, seconded by Legislator Rhoads. The item is before us. Is there anyone here to speak on this?

MR. WALSH: Good afternoon. Kevin Walsh from the Office of Real Estate Services.

I'll give you a little summary of this. This is a sale to an adjoining property owner. It's a vacant piece of county owned property in the Village of Hempstead, an odd shaped lot on the corner of Sycamore and Rose Avenue in the Village of Hempstead.

The Planning Commission authorized and approved this in October of late last year. The property was appraised for \$35,000, and a sealed bid process was taken and the high bidder was the adjoining owner for \$42,500.

Does anyone have any questions?

LEGISLATOR RHOADS: Just one, Madam Chairwoman.

CHAIRWOMAN SCHAEFER: Yes.

Legislator Rhoads.

LEGISLATOR RHOADS: What was OSPAC's recommendation?

MR. WALSH: OSPAC approved it, authorized it, and made the SEQRA recommendation, they did authorize it to go forward without condition.

LEGISLATOR RHOADS: Thank you.

CHAIRWOMAN SCHAEFER: Just one quick question. Can this, the property, now that it's

adjacent, and he or she is going to be purchasing that land, can it be subdivided at all?

MR. WALSH: No. Actually it's not developable as of right. The adjoining neighbor, employee parking.

CHAIRWOMAN SCHAEFER: Thank you.

There being none, all those in favor say aye.

(Aye.)

Any nays?

(No verbal response.)

The item passes.

(Whereupon, the following are the minutes of the Health Committee pertaining to Clerk Items 112, 113, 114, 3-30-15.)

CHAIRWOMAN WALKER: There are three items on the agenda today. If it's all right with everyone, we'll call them all together.

The first is Clerk Item 112-15, an ordinance supplemental to the annual appropriation ordinance in connection with the Department of Health; Clerk Item 113-15 is an ordinance supplemental to the annual appropriation ordinance in connection with the

Department of Health; and, Clerk Item 114-15 is an ordinance supplemental to the annual appropriation ordinance in connection with the Department of Health.

May I have a motion, please?

LEGISLATOR BECKER: So moved.

LEGISLATOR KENNEDY: Second.

CHAIRWOMAN WALKER: Moved by Legislator Becker, seconded by Legislator Kennedy. We have here Ms. MaryEllen Lorraine. Do you want to start with Clerk Item 112-15?

MS. LORRAINE: Good afternoon.

MaryEllen Lorraine, Department of Health.

Item 112-15 is a supplemental appropriation in the amount of \$523,600. This is for the Tuberculoze Public Health Campaign. The mission of this grant, which is funded through the New York State Department of Health is to protect the public and prevent the spread of tuberculosis.

CHAIRWOMAN WALKER: Are there any questions from the legislators?

(No verbal response.)

Is there any public comment?

(No verbal response.)

Clerk Item 113-15.

MS. LORRAINE: Item 113-15 is a supplemental appropriation in the amount of \$75,000. This is for the Sexually Transmitted Disease Program. This is also funded through the New York State Department of Health. The program's mission is to prevent the spread of sexually transmitted diseases.

CHAIRWOMAN WALKER: Are there any questions or comments from the legislators?

Legislator DeRiggi-Whitton.

LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: We just wanted to say that we think it's a great program. Do you have any idea when the contract would be executed?

MS. LORRAINE: This is grant funded through New York State Department of Health and it's a mandated program.

LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: Is it in effect now?

MS. LORRAINE: Yes.

LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: So, we are just reimbursing it?

MS. LORRAINE: Yes.

LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: Okay.

Thanks so much.

MS. LORRAINE: Actually, it's a year cycle. So the cycle begins 4-1.

CHAIRWOMAN WALKER: It's a continuation of something that we've had for a while?

MS. LORRAINE: Yes.

Investigation of sexually transmitted diseases is a mandate of public health.

CHAIRWOMAN WALKER: Any questions or comments from the legislators?

(No verbal response.)

Any public comments?

(No verbal response.)

Clerk Item 114-15.

MS. LORRAINE: Item 114-15 is a supplemental appropriation in the amount of \$18,784. This is for the Rabies Program.

This is also funded through New York State Department of Health is the mission is to prevent the spread of rabies within the county.

CHAIRWOMAN WALKER: Are there any comments or questions from the legislators?

Legislator Becker.

LEGISLATOR BECKER: How many times have we had rabies in Nassau County as of late?

MS. LORRAINE: We have not had a case of rabies. It started in the raccoon population and, through our successful bating program, we haven't had a positive since 2007.

LEGISLATOR BECKER: That's good news. Thank you.

CHAIRWOMAN WALKER: Any public comment?

(No verbal response.)

Seeing none, we'll vote on Clerk Items 112-15, 113-15, 114-15. All those in favor signify by saying aye.

(Aye.)

Any opposed?

(No verbal response.)

These items will move on to Finance.

Thank you, Ms. Lorraine.

(Whereupon, the following are the minutes of the Government Services Committee pertaining to Clerk Item 111-15, 3-30-15.)

CHAIRMAN KENNEDY: We have one item on the agenda today. 111 is an ordinance

supplemental to the annual appropriation ordinance in connection with the County Clerk.

May I have a motion, please?

LEGISLATOR BECKER: So moved.

LEGISLATOR SCHAEFER: Second.

CHAIRMAN KENNEDY: By Legislator Becker, seconded by Legislator Schaefer. Is there anyone here to speak on this?

MR. IANNUCCI: Yes. Francis Iannucci, Deputy County Clerk. This is a New York State Grant for records management, specifically to preserve court records.

CHAIRMAN KENNEDY: Is there any debate or discussion?

(No verbal response.)

Is there any public comment?

(No verbal response.)

LEGISLATOR SCHAEFER: Hi, Mr. Iannucci, I just have a quick question. Is this a grant that you've obtained before, or is this the first time getting this grant?

MR. IANNUCCI: Actually we apply for them regularly. We don't always get them. In this case we did. We are just waiting for the money

to be released to complete the project.

LEGISLATOR SCHAEFER: I was just curious.
Thank you.

CHAIRMAN KENNEDY: All those in favor
please signify by saying aye.

(Aye.)

All those opposed?

(No verbal response.)

Passes unanimously.

(Whereupon, the following are the minutes
of the Finance Committee pertaining to Clerk
Items 97, 115, 122 and 124, 3-30-15.)

CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Item 97 of 2015 is a
resolution to authorize the County Executive to
execute an intermunicipal agreement with the
County of Westchester, Department of Laboratories
and Research to perform trace evidence
examination for the County of Nassau Medical
Examiner's Office.

LEGISLATOR MACKENZIE: So moved.

LEGISLATOR WALKER: Second.

CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Moved by Legislator
MacKenzie, seconded by Legislator Walker. Is
there anyone here to talk about this item?

SERGEANT STEPHANOFF: Good afternoon,
Sergeant Greg Stephanoff from the Police
Department.

This item is a contract with Westchester
County for \$15,000 for them to perform our trace
evidence analysis.

CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: I know that there
were issues with the medical examiner's office,
the Nassau County lab, we have been doing this
year after year.

Do you have any idea as to how long we
will have to continue to farm this?

SERGEANT STEPHANOFF: Well, this isn't a
big portion of our evidence management. The
medical examiner is in the process of taking over
drug analysis. They are getting accredited for
that which is a big portion of our evidence.
Then they are going to move -- each discipline as
they keep on getting accredited.

CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Do you have any
projection now?

SERGEANT STEPHANOFF: The drug analysis
they said that they should be up and running this
year.

CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Can we expect that next year we won't have to do this agreement with Westchester?

SERGEANT STEPHANOFF: I can ask them how long.

CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Legislator DeRiggi-Whitton.

LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: Just on the resolution it says term, it says March 1st, 2015 through February 28th, 2018.

SERGEANT STEPHANOFF: It's a multi-year contract.

LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: But I thought you just said maybe it's by next year --

SERGEANT STEPHANOFF: No. On trace I would have to ask the medical examiner. I'm not sure when they're going to get up and running with trace. But we only have to use -- we use the contract. We don't have to use it. In other words, we use it as we send them evidence. So, if we get up and running, we can stop using the contract.

LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: So the through date is just discretionary if we are

going to need it, is that basically what you're saying?

SERGEANT STEPHANOFF: Yes.

CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: So the contract is in place for three years.

LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: I just thought it conflicted with what you said.

CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Any other questions?

(No verbal response.)

Thank you, sergeant. Any public comment?

(No verbal response.)

All those in favor of passing this, signify by saying aye.

(Aye.)

Those opposed?

(No verbal response.)

It carries unanimously.

Item 115 of 2015 is an ordinance amending Article 12 of Ordinance Number 56 of 1962 as amended constituting the Nassau County Fire Prevention Ordinance and making certain determinations pursuant to the State Environmental Quality Review Act.

LEGISLATOR MUSCARELLA: So moved.

LEGISLATOR WALKER: Second.

CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Moved by

Legislator Muscarella, seconded by

Legislator Walker. Anyone here to discuss these items? It was discussed in Public Safety and we ask that the minutes be incorporated by reference.

(Whereupon, please refer to the minutes of the Public Safety Committee dated 3-30-15 pertaining to Clerk Item 115-15 at pages 12-17.)

CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Just briefly.

ASSISTANT CHIEF PRIEST: John Priest, Nassau County Fire Marshal's Office, Assistant Chief. This is to raise certain fees that have last been raised between 2007 and 2011.

CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Those increases are except for emergency light and alarm permit fees; is that correct?

ASSISTANT CHIEF PRIEST: That is correct. Those fees were last raised in 2013. They are not being touched now.

CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: The increases are to cover the cost of living as well as wage increases?

ASSISTANT CHIEF PRIEST: That's correct, sir.

CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Do we have any further questions? Thank you.

(No verbal response.)

Is there any public comment?

(No verbal response.)

All those in favor signify by saying aye.

(Aye.)

Those opposed?

(Nay.)

That item passes four to three.

Items 122 and 124 of 2015, resolutions to authorize the transfer of appropriations heretofore made within the budget year for the year 2015.

LEGISLATOR MUSCARELLA: So moved.

LEGISLATOR WALKER: Second.

CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Moved by Legislator Muscarella, seconded by Legislator Walker. Any discussion?

(No verbal response.)

Is there any public comment?

LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: If it's

okay, I will defer to Laura.

LEGISLATOR SCHAEFER: Do we know yet how many employees are going to be -- do we have someone to ask?

CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Yes. On Items 122 and 124. Mr. May.

MR. MAY: The question is, how many employees are we going to have, the initial employees for the CSEA positions are going to be either seven or eight.

LEGISLATOR SCHAEFER: Very good.

That was my next question. Also, do we know how many employees are coming from other county departments or are they new hires?

MR. MAY: You know, it's complicated. We interviewed 75 individuals for these seven or eight positions. We have given about 25, 30 of those call backs but we haven't made any announcements one way or another. So I would prefer not to comment on the record about the hiring until after decisions are made.

LEGISLATOR SCHAEFER: Fair enough. Do we know how many are being hired from -- I guess we wouldn't know, it's too soon. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Thank you, Mr. May.

MR. MAY: You're welcome.

CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Any other
discussion?

(No verbal response.)

Is there any public comment?

(No verbal response.)

All those in favor signify by saying aye.

(Aye.)

Those opposed?

(No verbal response.)

Those items carry unanimously.

(Whereupon, the following is the
continuation of the minutes of the Rules
Committee, 3-30-15.)

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Motion, please.

LEGISLATOR DUNNE: So moved.

LEGISLATOR MUSCARELLA: Second.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Moved by
Legislator Dunne, seconded by Legislator
Muscarella. Any comment from the legislators?

(No verbal response.)

Is there any public comment?

(No verbal response.)

There being none, all those in favor of
the items just called signify by saying aye.

(Aye.)

Any opposed?

(No verbal response.)

The items pass unanimously.

Now to the items that were not on the
consent calendar or the consent agenda.

Beginning with Item 115 which is an
ordinance amending Article 22 of Ordinance 56-
1962 as amended constituting the Nassau County
Fire Prevention Ordinance and making certain
determinations pursuant to the State
Environmental Quality Review Act.

Motion, please.

LEGISLATOR DUNNE: So moved.

LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Second.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Moved by
Legislator Dunne, seconded by Legislator
Nicolello. Any comments on this item?

(No verbal response.)

Is there any public comment?

(No verbal response.)

There being none, all those in favor of

Item 115 signify by saying aye.

(Aye.)

Any opposed?

(Nay.)

The item passes four to three.

Moving on to Item 123, a resolution, and this is a Rules only item, to confirm the County appointment of Gregory A. May as Commissioner of the Taxi and Limousine Commission pursuant to the Nassau County Charter, Section 203, and Article 21B of the Nassau County Charter.

Motion, please.

LEGISLATOR DUNNE: So moved.

LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Second.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Moved by Legislator Dunne, seconded by Legislator Nicolello. Any comments from the legislators?

LEGISLATOR JACOBS: I think Gregory May is an excellent person to have in this position and I have full confidence in him full confidence in him that he will do an excellent job as he has in the past few years.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Okay.

That's very nice. Legislator Solages.

LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Thank you very much, Presiding Officer. I have a comment. Although I did not vote for the creation of this entity, I will be voting for Greg May. He has done a great job and I know he will be doing a good job in this position. Thank you.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: I guess you have nothing to say, Greg, let well enough alone?

MR. MAY: Traditionally we come down for the Full Legislature and don't speak during committees, but thank you very much for your kind words. I really appreciate it. It's been a pleasure working with everyone, and I will obviously continue working with everyone in the new position.

So thank you.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: You're most welcome. Any other comments?

LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Just to echo what Legislator Jacobs said, you don't have to come back up, Mr. May, we found working with Mr. May over the last six years has been very, very cooperative, and very, very good, and helpful what he does, and I feel proud to vote for him

2 today in the committee as well as vote for him in
3 the Full Legislature in the coming weeks.

4 MR. MAY: Thank you very much.

5 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: And he will
6 continue to communicate with us.

7 MR. MAY: Absolutely. Every day.

8 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Is there any
9 public comment?

10 (No verbal response.)

11 There being none, all those in favor of
12 Item 123, the confirmation of Greg May as
13 commissioner of the Taxi and Limousine
14 Commission, all those in favor signify by saying
15 aye.

16 (Aye.)

17 Any opposed?

18 (No verbal response.)

19 The Item 123 will be of course will be
20 really confirmed on the 13th of April. In the
21 meantime, have a happy holiday.

22 MR. MAY: Thank you very much.

23 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Item 124, a
24 resolution to authorize the transfer of
25 appropriations heretofore made within the budget

for the year 2015.

Motion, please. Did we take a vote?

LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Not on the board transfer.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: I need someone to make the motion.

LEGISLATOR DUNNE: So moved.

LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Second.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Moved by Legislator Dunne, seconded by Legislator Nicolello. Any comments or questions regarding 124?

(No verbal response.)

124 we are on.

LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: I just have a quick question about the board transfer, Mr. May. I know you had said in finance that seven to eight individuals are coming from CSEA.

MR. MAY: The CSEA positions, there are 10 total. There are seven investigator ones, two investigator twos, one investigator three, and I'm trying to negotiate with the Chief Deputy County Executive for an extra in the lower positions.

LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Any trainee positions?

MR. MAY: The training positions, they would start as trainees and then test into investigator ones.

LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: My question really is coming down to, a while ago, Chief Deputy County Executive Walker had mentioned there were individuals from the sewers that would be entertained to be incorporated into the Taxi and Limousine Commission.

How many of the 78, if you can tell me, I don't know if you are blocked by any type of collective bargaining or anything like that, but how many of seven or eight are actually coming from the sewers?

MR. MAY: Nobody has been offered a job yet. So, I interviewed, I believe it was somewhere in the neighborhood of 75 individuals, and we had offered second interviews to probably about 25 to 30 individuals and we had developed a list, but we have not made any offers yet, and I don't want to say anything else until we have contacted the applicants.

2 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: The entire budget
3 is \$612,000?

4 MR. MAY: I thought it was 610, but my
5 paperwork is at my seat.

6 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: I will give you two
7 grand.

8 MR. MAY: I'll take it. Done.

9 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: That includes the
10 fringe benefits, right?

11 MR. MAY: Correct, I believe it's salary,
12 fringe, equipment, and I forget the last line,
13 general. Thank you.

14 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: It probably doesn't
15 include fringe, probably just the salaries.

16 MR. MAY: I thought there was an AB in
17 there. Fringe, second line?

18 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: No, the second line
19 is DE.

20 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Any other
21 comments?

22 (No verbal response.)

23 Is there any public comment?

24 (No verbal response.)

25 There being none, all those in favor of

124 signify by saying aye.

(Aye.)

Any opposed?

(No verbal response.)

The item passes unanimously.

Now we are going to Item 127, a resolution to confirm the County Executive's appointment of Matt Silver to the Taxi and Limousine Board pursuant to the Nassau County Charter, Section 203 and Article 21B, Section 21-60B.

Motion, please.

LEGISLATOR DUNNE: So moved.

LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Second.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Moved by Legislator Dunne, seconded by Legislator Nicolello. We are on 127, and of course we are only putting this through, so of course it's going to Full Leg, so the individual would not be here.

If there are to comments for 127, all those in favor say aye.

(Aye.)

Any opposed?

(No verbal response.)

The item passes unanimously.

Then we have looks two other appointments, which is Item 128, to confirm the County Executive's appointment of Larry Blessinger to the Taxi and Limousine Board pursuant to the Nassau County Charter, Section 203 and Article 21B, Section 21-60B, and Item 130, which is the confirmation of the County Executive's appointment of Paul Delario to the TLC.

Motion, please.

LEGISLATOR DUNNE: So moved.

LEGISLATOR MUSCARELLA: Second.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Moved by Legislator Dunne, seconded by Legislator Muscarella. Any questions on these two appointments, and, again, they will be hereat the Full Leg?

(No verbal response.)

There being no comments, all those in favor of 128 and 130 signify by saying aye.

(Aye.)

Any opposed?

(No verbal response.)

The items pass unanimously.

131, a resolution authorizing the
County Executive to execute an IMA with the North
Merrick Union Free School District in relation to
a project to purchase playground and/or outdoor
recreational equipment.

Motion, please.

LEGISLATOR DUNNE: So moved.

LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Second.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Moved by
Legislator Dunne, seconded by Legislator
Nicolello. Any questions or comments regarding
that item?

(No verbal response.)

Is there any public comment?

(No verbal response.)

There being none, all those in favor of
131 signify by saying aye.

(Aye.)

Any opposed?

(No verbal response.)

The item passes unanimously.

Item 133, an intermunicipal agreement

with the Town of Oyster Bay in relation to a project to purchase communication equipment.

Motion, please.

LEGISLATOR DUNNE: So moved.

LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Second.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Moved by Legislator Dunne, seconded by Legislator Nicolello. Are there any questions or comments from the legislators?

(No verbal response.)

Is there any public comment?

(No verbal response.)

There being none, all those in favor of 133 signify by saying aye.

(Aye.)

Any opposed?

(No verbal response.)

The item passes unanimously.

(The following is the continuation of the April 13, 2015 minutes of the Full Legislature.)

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: I'm going to begin with Item 3, Ordinance 34; Item 4, Ordinance 35; Item 5, Ordinance 36; Item 6, Ordinance 37; Item 7, Ordinance 38; Item 8,

2 Ordinance 39; Item 9, Ordinance 40; Item 10,
3 Ordinance 41; Item 11, Ordinance 42; Item 12,
4 Ordinance 43; Item 13, Ordinance 44; Item 15,
5 Resolution 48; Item 16, Resolution 49; Item 17,
6 Resolution 50, Item 18, Resolution 51; Item 19,
7 Resolution 52; Item 20, Resolution 53; Item 25,
8 Resolution 58; Item 26, Resolution 59; Item 27,
9 Resolution 60; Item 28, Resolution 61; Item 29,
10 Resolution 62; Item 30, Resolution 63; Item 31,
11 Resolution 64; Item 32, Resolution 65; Item 33,
12 Resolution 66; Item 34, Resolution 67; Item 35,
13 Resolution 68.

14 Motion, please?

15 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: So moved.

16 LEGISLATOR SCHAEFER: Second.

17 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Moved by
18 Legislator Kopel, seconded by Legislator
19 Schaefer.

20 Any additional comments?

21 (No verbal response.)

22 Any comments from the public?

23 (No verbal response.)

24 There being none; all those in favor of
25 the items that were called signify by saying aye.

(Aye.)

Any opposed?

(No verbal response.)

The items pass unanimously.

I'm going to go out of order for a minute. I believe we have a few items that were not on the consent calendar. I'm going to begin with -- there are some appointment. I'll begin with Item 21, Resolution 54, a resolution to confirm the county executive's appointment of Gregory A. May of Commissioner of the Taxi and Limousine Commission, pursuant to the Nassau County Charter Section 203 and Article XXI-B of the Nassau County Charter.

Motion, please?

Legislator Dunne, seconded by Legislator Becker.

Mr. May, would you like to talk to us about you and what you intend to do?

MR. MAY: What I intend to do? I guess I intend to enforce the rules and regulations of the Taxi and Limousine Commission.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: That's what we want to hear.

MR. MAY: There you go.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: All right. We have questions from the legislators. Legislator Ford.

LEGISLATOR FORD: Good afternoon.

MR. MAY: Good afternoon.

LEGISLATOR FORD: How many investigators do you currently have now working in this Taxi and Limousine Commission?

MR. MAY: Currently, zero.

LEGISLATOR FORD: And when do you plan on having more than zero?

MR. MAY: The Civil Service Exam was announced I believe last Thursday, and the test is going to be held on, I believe it's June 6 of this year.

LEGISLATOR FORD: Why is it taking so long, when we actually discussed this at the beginning of the year?

MR. MAY: Well, we had interviewed 75 or so candidates for the positions after we had developed a list. From that set of interviews we had learned that the Civil Service exam was coming out. So we are still determining if we're

going to be hiring from the interviews or waiting for the list to come out. If the list comes out soon, we will hire off the list. If we're not going to get the list back from the state, we're going to hire off of the interviews provisionally.

LEGISLATOR FORD: If it's a civil service job and you're going to require a test, how can you hire from a list that doesn't --

MR. MAY: We can hire provisionally from interviews, and then once the civil service list is produced, if the people who were moved over originally took the exam, which is what we could encourage them to do, and have called everybody who did interview with us, we would ask them to sign up for the civil service exam. If they are reachable on the test, they would say.

LEGISLATOR FORD: And what happens if they aren't or if they fail?

MR. MAY: If they're not reachable on the exam, then they would not be able to stay on.

LEGISLATOR FORD: From what I understand, these employees that you interviewed, many of them were displaced workers from the

sewer department, correct?

MR. MAY: I would not say many of them.

LEGISLATOR FORD: But most of the interviewees are actually or were or currently were civil service employees here in the county, correct?

MR. MAY: I would say about half were civil service.

LEGISLATOR FORD: Okay. So if they decide that you're going to hire from the list and they're going to be provisional and they either opt not to take the test or they take the test, they fail, or you don't get to their list number, what happens to them? Do they go back to the jobs that they left to do this job?

MR. MAY: That would be a question for human resources. I believe if they are able to take a leave of absence from their position, they would be able to move back. But that's not my expertise, that would be for human resources.

LEGISLATOR FORD: But is there any effort on the part of the administration to work with human resources to protect those people should they come over as a provisional employees

--

MR. MAY: Yes, absolutely.

LEGISLATOR FORD: so that they're not giving up their future with the county?

MR. MAY: We would not bring anybody over with the intent to sort of trap them, where if they move over to the TLC and they don't make it on the test that they're suddenly out of a job. That's not what we're intending to do.

LEGISLATOR FORD: Okay. And I understand that. I'm very concerned about that. Is there any way then from getting from the administration in writing that those provisional employees that were employees of Nassau County in other job titles that have taken the job as a provisional Taxi and Limousine Commission investigator, that should they not - either they don't reach the list number or they don't take the list or whatever, there is any reason, not because of their attitude or behavior - you're on the job, I understand that - but anything to depend upon the list and the test being given, that we could have it in writing that those people that do not -- if they take the test and

2 their number is not reached that they would not
3 be fired and left, that they will be able to
4 retreat back to the jobs that they left in order
5 to take this position.

6 MR. MAY: I would have to speak to human
7 resources to make sure that that, exactly what
8 you're saying, is something that we can do. I
9 would certainly take that under advisement and
10 notify the county executive.

11 LEGISLATOR FORD: I'd like that soon and
12 I'd like that in writing, one way or the other.
13 This is something very key.

14 To be quite honest with you, I know that
15 we were talking about this. The whole point of
16 this Taxi and Limousine Commission, it's not your
17 fault, but you're the one who is going to head
18 it, I guess, so it's going to be your problem.

19 MR. MAY: That depends on the vote,
20 right?

21 LEGISLATOR FORD: But the problem is the
22 whole point of this was to make it safer for
23 people throughout Nassau County that are riding
24 in taxis. At this point now we're already in
25 April and we're still discussing the possibility

of bringing investigators over. To me, it sort of makes it a moot point as to do we really care about the safety of the residents and the taxi riders here in Nassau County.

MR. MAY: I would have to point out, Legislator Ford, that I have already been out with members of the Seventh Precinct, the Third Precinct, and the Village of Hempstead police, along with the existing taxi and limousine investigators from the Office of Consumer Affairs. I think we have done, up until this point, four sting operations, we have impounded five cars who were operating illegally as taxi cabs, and we have ticketed the drivers of those five plus another three or four riders.

I take this opportunity and this position very seriously. And we have already been out and increasing enforcement.

LEGISLATOR FORD: I thank you. Obviously, you do.

Many years ago when we were on One West Street we passed legislation in regard to taxi ridership and the people were supposed to have the decals. Here we are probably ten years later

and we're still trying to get this whole thing together. And I appreciate the efforts on the part of the police department because they do a phenomenal job here in Nassau County. I think, by far, they are the best police department throughout the United States, even the world.

MR. MAY: I certainly agree with that.

LEGISLATOR FORD: And that's what they can do, but we also need them to do other things as well. The whole point of having this, with special investigators, is that we don't always have to take up the time of the police officers.

I really would like to focus on this. I really would like to find out from human resources, and I would like to have a confirmation, and I would like to see the notice that this test will be given June 6.

MR. MAY: The notice is online right now. You can do Nassau Civil Service --

LEGISLATOR FORD: I usually get it. I didn't see that notice at all.

MR. MAY: It's up.

LEGISLATOR FORD: Basically, where is your office going to be located?

MR. MAY: I'm located in One West, Room 136A.

LEGISLATOR FORD: And that will be where the investigators meet?

MR. MAY: The investigators would meet across the hallway; I believe it's room 137.

LEGISLATOR FORD: Okay. And there is parking sufficient for them? Because there are how many of them, seven, eight nine, ten?

MR. MAY: Under the Civil Service list there would be seven.

LEGISLATOR FORD: Okay. Now I know that also in the legislation not only are we going to have investigators, but we're going to have supervisors. So they have not been hired yet either, right? You're the only person currently working on the TLC?

MR. MAY: Correct. I have a deputy county attorney assigned to my office. It's essentially the two of us right now, working with the existing taxi and limousine staff over at the Office of Consumer Affairs.

LEGISLATOR FORD: So there will be no supervisors hired until, of course, all of the

employees are there.

MR. MAY: The supervisory positions are the Investigator 2 and 3 positions, and those would be testable positions as well. So, no, the supervisor is going to be me.

LEGISLATOR FORD: When will the test be then for those positions?

MR. MAY: I would have to check with the Office of Civil Service.

LEGISLATOR FORD: Okay. Basically, what is going to be the hours for the investigators to work? They're not going to be nine to five, are they?

MR. MAY: The plan is not for them to be nine to five. When we were doing the interviews, we indicated to everyone who was interviewing that the hours would be depending on what kind of duty they would pull. Obviously, people are going to have to desk work, people are going to have to come in and register their cabs with the county so that would take up some space or sometime in the day. The investigators would have to be available both nights and weekends, depending on where you're looking to do

enforcement. If you wanted to be down in the Village of Rockville Centre, the City of Long Beach, it's important to be available at night and on the weekends when those areas have the late night bar crowds, concerts, and that sort of thing letting out. It's not necessarily helpful to have enforcement just nine to five. You want to have enforcement really randomly 24/7.

LEGISLATOR FORD: I just wanted to go back and then I'll be finished. I'm sorry.

On the registration of the -- I guess for the cabs, to be registered.

MR. MAY: Yes.

LEGISLATOR FORD: They're going to be doing it at One West Street?

MR. MAY: The paperwork would be done at One West Street, yes.

LEGISLATOR FORD: Is there any possibility -- only because of the location, parking, so forth, a lot of other things, is there any way of doing a mobile type of set up so you could go into the various neighborhoods basically where the cab companies have their headquarters and allow them to register the

vehicles there?

MR. MAY: There's certainly the possibility. It's not something that I had considered, but would be happy to investigate the opportunity to do so.

LEGISLATOR FORD: Thank you very much.

MR. MAY: Thank you.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Any other comments or questions regarding Mr. May?

(No verbal response.)

Any public comment?

(No verbal response.)

There being none; all those in favor of confirming the county executive's appointment of Greg May as the commissioner of the Taxi and Limousine Commission signify by saying aye.

(Aye.)

Any opposed?

(No verbal response.)

You have been confirmed unanimously.

MR. MAY: Thank you very much. I appreciate it. Thank you.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Okay. We have, related to the Taxi and Limousine Commission,

three appointments by the county executive. The first one is Item 22, Matt Silver; 23, the appointment is Larry Blessinger; and Item 24, the appointment is Paul Dellaquilo.

Motion, please?

LEGISLATOR BECKER: So moved.

LEGISLATOR FORD: Second.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Moved by Legislator Becker, seconded by Legislator Ford.

Any comments or questions regarding these three individuals? Are they here? Are the individuals here? Step up, introduce yourself, please.

MR. BLESSINGER: Lawrence Blessinger, Jr. It will be a pleasure and an honor to serve on the Taxi and Limousine Commission Board. I believe it's a very important thing that the county executive has started this initiative. There are several issues in regards to illegal taxis running around Nassau County. It's also a big issue to the riding public and the safety of the riding public.

Thank you.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Is Mr. Silver

here? Matt Silver?

(No verbal response.)

Paul Dellaquilo. Paul, would you like to come up and say a few words? May as well put a face to the name.

MR. DELLAQUILO: Yes. Hello. My name is Paul Dellaquilo, a lifelong resident of Nassau County. I'm currently an independent consultant in the transportation and finance industry. I was asked to serve on this board. I have extensive experience in transportation in various taxi markets around the country. I believe I can add value.

My primary concern is like yours, the safety of the consumer, enforcement, and accessibility.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Any questions or comments? Legislator Becker.

LEGISLATOR BECKER: I don't know Paul that well. Mr. Blessinger I know personally, and Mr. Silver I also know personally. These are really quality people. They have an understanding of the transportation industry; Paul, you sound like you do as well. I think

you're absolutely great selections. And I personally want to thank you for sacrificing your time to serve on this board. I can only think that the community is going to be made safer and the consumer public made safer by this.

Thank you.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Any other comments from the legislators?

(No verbal response.)

Any public comment?

(No verbal response.)

There being none; all those in favor of confirming the appointment of Matt Silver, Larry Blessinger, and Paul Dellaquilo to the Taxi and Limousine Board signify by saying aye.

(Aye.)

Any opposed?

(No verbal response.)

The items pass unanimously.

Congratulations.

Item 2, Ordinance 33, an ordinance authorizing the county executive on behalf of the County of Nassau to execute an amendment to lease, between the County of Nassau, as landlord,

and Nassau Events Center, LLC, as tenant, of certain premises located in Uniondale, Town of Hemsptead, County of Nassau, State of New York, said property known as Section 44, Block F, Lots 403 and 351 on the land and tax map of the County of Nassau, and authorizing the county executive to execute all pertinent documents in connection therewith to consummate the lease.

I need an amendment to -- not an amendment -- motion to suspend the rules.

LEGISLATOR BECKER: So moved.

LEGISLATOR WALKER: Second.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Moved by Legislator Becker, seconded by Legislator Walker.

All those in favor of suspending the rules signify by saying aye.

(Aye.)

Any opposed?

(No verbal response.)

The motion to suspend the rules now passes.

Once again, Item 2, Ordinance 33, an ordinance authorizing the county executive on behalf of the County of Nassau to execute an

amendment to lease, between the County of Nassau, as landlord, and Nassau Events Center, LLC, as tenant, of certain premises located in Uniondale, Town of Hempstead, County of Nassau, State of New York, said property known as Section 44, Block F, Lots 403 and 351 on the land and tax map of the County of Nassau, and authorizing the county executive to execute all pertinent documents in connection therewith to consummate the lease.

I need a motion to put the item before us.

LEGISLATOR KOPEL: So moved.

LEGISLATOR DUNNE: Second.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Moved by Legislator Kopel, seconded by Legislator Dunne.

At this time it is necessary to offer an amendment in the nature of a substitution for Clerk Item 136-15, and this amendment corrects a clerical error in the ordinance and staff summary identifying any increased financial commitment to the project at 31.5 million. The financial commitment was previously listed at 30.5 million in those documents, and includes the final page of the first amendment to the lease containing

Exhibit A that was omitted in the previous file.

Motion, please?

LEGISLATOR DUNNE: So moved.

LEGISLATOR BECKER: Second.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Moved by
Legislator Dunne, seconded by Legislator Becker.

Now all those in favor of the amendment
signify by saying aye.

(Aye.)

Any opposed?

(No verbal response.)

The item is amended.

Now it's time to re-entertain, I believe,
the -- Josh, it's your turn.

MR. MEYER: Good afternoon. I
appreciate -- Josh Meyer, partner at Pannone
Lopes Devereaux and West. Thank you very much.
I appreciate the opportunity to be here again
today to follow up on the March 30 Rules
Committee meeting just so I can give you a
briefing on EB-5 in general and discuss the
process and the program and the amendment that we
are discussing today. So if I can just provide a
brief history of the program to provide some

context and background to the issues and to the EB-5 program.

The five ways of obtaining a Visa in the United States: family, asylum, lottery, an act of Congress, or employment. There are five categories of employment based Visas, so that's where you get the EB-5 from. It's the fifth category that was authorized by Congress in 1990 for the employment-based Visa. Of the five categories there is EB1, EB2, EB3, and EB4, which are employee-based Visa programs. So that's based on the skills that an immigrant can bring to a certain company or corporation in the United States. As I said, in 1990, this EB-5 program, federal program, authorized this fifth program of employment-based Visas and authorized foreign individuals to contribute or invest \$500,000 for economic development projects in the United States in exchange for the opportunity to apply for a two-year Visa. This program was created to bring new investment capital into the country and to create new jobs for U.S. workers.

So we are here today regarding the amendment to the existing Coliseum lease to

provide an option for the EB-5 financing, in addition to the institutional investor financing already in the lease. This increases NEC's contractual financial commitment on the Coliseum to \$31.5 million, that includes millions of dollars more spent on union labor. It increases the amount to be spent on the Coliseum from 98.5 million to \$130 million. It contractually increases the amount to be spent on the overall development from \$229 million to \$260.5 million.

I would like to point out and stress it does not alleviate any of the duties or obligation of NEC to provide financing for the redevelopment of the Coliseum. If the EB-5 financing is unsuccessful, NEC is required to pursue and obtain the conventional financing through an institutional investor as currently stated in the lease.

I would also like to stress that EB-5 financing is open and available to any foreign investors in almost all countries and is not limited to any particular country or class of investors.

I would also like to point out the EB-5

funding is currently being used and pursued at such major projects as the Tappansee Bridge, Hudson Yards in New York City, which is a major mix-use redevelopment project, and of course the Atlantic Yards project, just to name a few.

And with that, I'd be happy to take or answer any questions that the legislative members may have.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Minority Leader Kevan Abrahams.

LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: How are you, Josh?

MR. MEYER: Good. How are you, Legislator?

LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Good. Good.

I have many different types of questions in many different areas. But I just want to establish first what we're voting on today does not include a community benefits agreement.

MR. MEYER: Correct. That's correct.

LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: It does include or it included when we passed it sometime ago a side letter which was basically indicating that Forest City Ratner would engage in a 20 percent

minority and women business enterprise initiative but that side letter is not enforceable; am I correct?

MR. MEYER: To the extent it's not enforceable, they have agreed to that through the letter. It's not contractually part of the existing lease, and that I assume. I am not privy to the details of that but I assume that's a goal that they established.

LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: A goal. But if they tried to -- if the county wanted to enforce the letter and say because Forest City only did ten percent, they tried their best but they got ten, it's a goal. There is no recourse the county can take to get them to do the 20.

MR. MEYER: I would agree with that. The lease was unanimously approved at the time --

LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Yes.

MR. MEYER: and it did not include that at that time. That's correct. And it was agreed upon at that time to be a side letter.

LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: So just to hammer home the point. What exactly is the host community, which in this case is Uniondale,

receiving in this community benefits agreement?

I received a letter here from Mr. Ratner, I'm just trying to locate it, that talks about -- obviously, Forest City Ratner has a history of delivering community benefits regardless of government or stakeholder mandate - I guess that's a shot at us, myself. Any seek to maximize local hiring of residents of Uniondale, East Meadow, and the surrounding communities, as well as Nassau County and the greater Long Island residents. NEC is committed to creating a vibrant community for Nassau residents through access and engagement with the programming of the Coliseum. NEC commits to many tickets available to local community groups and will make the arena available for community events at a discounted rates. Now, granted, somehow, some way folks this is enough.

Let me ask you this; is any of this in the lease?

MR. MEYER: Not currently. I believe especially about MBE/WBE, I believe there are other benefits available to the community such as sales tax and other things that come back to the

county but not specifically on the items that you --

LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: I'm talking specifically in regards to a community benefits agreement with the host community or the neighboring communities, such as East Meadow or Hempstead, but primarily we're talking about Uniondale. Is any component of what I just talked about - let's just go through it again - maximized local hiring, what commitment have they made or can they identify how many jobs are going to be provided as per their letter in Uniondale, East Meadow and the surrounding communities? How many jobs will be provided? Let's be even more specific. How many jobs will go into Uniondale or East Meadow?

MR. MEYER: I'm not aware of any right now. But as I indicated --

LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Can Forest City respond to that?

MR. MEYER: They can. As I indicated previously, it was unanimously approved at --

LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Yes. I voted for it.

MR. MEYER: the time, and so it's unclear to me at this time if that was -- if the community benefits agreement that you're interested in would be put in, then there would have been an issue at the time it was voted upon.

LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Actually, we talked about it on the record and I think someone mentioned it as part of the public comment, that Forest City gave the impression that they would pursue many of the community benefits.

MR. MEYER: I believe that if you do look back at the transcript it was not a commitment to enter into one but potentially the --

LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: So let's just hammer home again. Local hiring for residents of Uniondale, East Meadow -- this is not my language, this is theirs. How many residents from Uniondale or East Meadow could be expected to be hired? I think that's a very simple question if you're going to put that in a letter. Can somebody from Forest City answer? Specifically to Uniondale and East Meadow, if you could, please.

MR. COTTON: Hi. Thanks for having us.

I'm Ashley Cotton, Senior Vice President from Forest City Ratner.

MR. LESTER: Jim Lester, Executive Vice President of Development, Forest City Ratner.

MS. COTTON: I'm glad to see many of you again. Again, we appreciate the unanimous support we received from this body previously. We were going to read that letter into the record. Maybe that's not worthwhile now since the Minority Leader has already been referencing it.

We are happy to talk about any of the benefits written in that letter. Frankly, we've opened ourselves up to negotiating the specific of those items in that letter in advance of this vote, and are happy to discuss it at length with you guys here today.

We'd like to acknowledge that Dick O'Kane is here. We will be an all-union construction. The way to specifically identify specific workers without a PLA assigned at this point is obviously not possible. But we certainly understand your question and look forward to all sorts of efforts in collaboration with the unions and, of course,

with the legislature to hire local people.
That's our intention. That's our record
previously on all our construction projects, and
we look forward to making sure that happens in
Nassau.

LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Thank you. That
said, obviously I think everyone on this
legislature voted unanimously; I know that's a
recurring theme. We voted unanimously because
obviously we want to see jobs. We want to see
economic development. What the community benefit
agreement does is it ensure the community which,
in this case, is the host community is not left
behind. So if I could, Ms. Cotton, let me just
get down to the specifics.

Obviously, we can't answer the question
in regards to NEC will seek to maximize local
hiring for residents of Uniondale and East
Meadow, can we? How many?

MS. COTTON: As I just said, obviously I
couldn't count the numbers of jobs. There is a
PLA to --

LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: So it could be
zero.

MS. COTTON: be assigned. As we discussed on the phone previously, last week, we have a program in Brooklyn that we were willing to discuss with you guys. And obviously, again, I want to continue to refer to Dick O'Kane who is here because we will have to sign a PLA. But there are programs that we have used previously where one in four constructions workers is automatically a local union member from Brooklyn on our project in Brooklyn. These are the kind of practices that are very commonplace for our company, and we'd be happy to bring them here to Nassau and to hammer out those sorts of agreement as part of a PLA.

LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: So basically what we're talking about - I just like to be straight. What we're talking about is we can't basically make any commitment that anyone from East Meadow or Uniondale will be hired.

MS. COTTON: That's not true.

LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: It could be zero.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Mr. O'Kane is here, maybe he can help.

LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: I'd be glad to

have Mr. O'Kane come up. I know Dick very well. But obviously, it seems to be that we're making a commitment in a letter indicating that we will seek to maximize the local hiring of residents from Uniondale and East Meadow, but, quite honestly, we can't make any commitment for that today. Mr. O'Kane, please.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Mr. O'Kane, please join us. Come up and join us.

MR. O'KANE: I think I can put this thing to rest.

My name is Dick O'Kane. I'm with the Nassau/Suffolk Building Trades. I represent 59,000 workers, many of whom live in Uniondale and they are all licensed and certificated in 34 different trades. Out of that, many times we've had this debate, for the last 40 years, about community benefits and things of that nature. This year, for the first time, we have our first inaugural class regarding Opportunity Long Island, where we take disadvantaged people in these communities, in these communities and we try to get them to enter -- preregister them to try to get into any one of those 34 trades that I

just enumerated to become apprentices.

What we're doing is offering them careers, not jobs, not jobs that are just going to last when the Coliseum is going up and then when it's all over they go away and they're still looking and in the same boat. We are offering them careers. I can attest to the fact that it's a wonderful career.

I have 43 years with the ironworkers. It was a great career for me. I came from a depressed area. I didn't have anybody. I didn't have anybody holding my hand or taking me to get work and all of that. I had to make it on my own. But I went to apprentice school.

So what we're trying to do for the community is to get these people that are disadvantaged, screwed up a little bit when they were younger and have a time getting employment.

We are in the process, right now we have 15 people in class getting the training that will open up the door for them to apply into the apprenticeship program, 34 of them, 34 programs that, you know -- at one point or another 59,000 people went through. It's an opportunity. It

was overdue. It's here. We're looking forward to -- the next class, I strongly suggest that we do the recruitment in Uniondale.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: And you need to go into East Meadow as well.

MR. O'KANE: I'm sorry?

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: You need to go into East Meadow as well.

MR. O'KANE: What?

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: East Meadow, which is a neighboring community.

MR. O'KANE: Anywhere you want it we'll introduce the class.

LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Dick, I appreciate that. And obviously, like I said before, we want to see development at the Coliseum. And I appreciate you coming down here today and being patient with us. I envision that you've probably been here before one o'clock.

MR. O'KANE: Eleven.

LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Eleven o'clock.

MR. O'KANE: And I was the third application in to speak.

LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: But keeping in

mind -- obviously, I know and respect you for the fact that you mentioned that there are folks from Uniondale and East Meadow that are going to be coming down and good things are going to be working at this project.

But the goal of a community benefits agreement: One, we want to make sure that, yes, there's organized labor that continues to prosper, continues to be able to put food on the table for many of those families. However, I would be remiss if I didn't mention that we want to make sure that this opportunity opens up doors for those that may not be a member of the union, and that's where the community benefits come in, is making sure that because this project is going to occur in Uniondale that we're able to get new members infused so that the project has a representation of folks that are from the surrounding community.

MR. O'KANE: None of the people that are in school now are union people. These are people that are looking to get into the union. As I said earlier, we are trying to train them to get them work ready so that they can get into a union

apprenticeship program and prosper from there moving forward. So none of them are union people right now that are in this program. It's Opportunity Long Island, and the opportunity is to try to get in, you know, with your work ways and be able to go to an apprenticeship school and serve three, four, five years and get out there and be a consummate journeyman. As a result of being an apprentice, you wind up with all kinds of certificates, licenses at your need.

I get amused sometimes when I hear about 20 percent, 30 percent. How do you take 20 percent or 30 percent of the people that don't have any training and put them on a project of that magnitude with no training? Just the other day there, there were four people in New York that wound up in at a hospital trying to hang a chandelier.

So you look at the magnitude of that Coliseum and, you know, the more training they have, the better off you are going to be. You are less liable for lawsuits and the whole nine years.

LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: We agree.

MR. O'KANE: That's the ultimate goal.

But none of these people, none of these people have any affiliation or even thought of having an affiliation with a local union until we put this program together called Operation Long Island - or Opportunity Long Island.

LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: I agree with your sentiment in regards to that. But if I can, Mrs. Cotton, if I can move on to a different point, because I guess we're going to agree to disagree to some degrees on that.

The NEC letter also talks about that you're making commitments to making tickets available to local community groups and will make the arena available for community events as a discounted rate. Is any of that in the lease agreement?

MS. COTTON: Nope. That's in the letter before you.

LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: That's in the letter before me. So there is nothing -- if you turn around and decide you don't want to do it, there is nothing forcing you to do it.

MS. COTTON: Again, these are the kinds

of benefits that are exactly what our company believes in, exactly what our company dreams up, it's exactly what our company's done in Brooklyn, and it's exactly what we want to bring to Nassau. We would be happy to engage with you, as we've said many times, on, you know, identifying the community groups that you are most interested in seeing these sorts of benefits.

LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: They are right behind you.

MS. COTTON: And I would offer that to everybody here today.

There are over two million people in Brooklyn that we're happy to engage with when it relates to the Barclay Center. In the case of Nassau Coliseum, Uniondale, which we've mentioned many times, and many other towns, they are going to see these benefits; that is our pledge, that is what we do, and we look forward to working out those sorts of details with you guys.

LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: That's another story too, as well, because there was a CBA in Brooklyn. Many of these things are probably discussed in that.

But let me also go -- before I go into that, let's just put into clarity on what the community's been asking for.

I think Professor Maney discussed it earlier in regard to the four points of community unity, one of which he was looking to have façade and signage upgrades on Uniondale Avenue, one was discussing to continue to further enhance the efforts of the community center, obviously the internships and the STEM is something that he was pushing for as well, and then obviously the vacant homes and the zombie properties in Uniondale. Is there any discussion or any -- you and I have discussed this but obviously it hasn't come to fruition. Is there any discussion about how any of that stuff would be considered?

MS. COTTON: I think we'll try to take them one-by-one.

Internships and programming around the Nassau Coliseum and the development that we are actually doing, we are happy to discuss and create programs around those sorts of things.

We were never asked to come and develop STEM jobs. I'm sure you all know now that

Memorial Sloan Kettering is interested in coming to the site, and we are obviously pleased about that. It happens to be separate from us. But I will point out that our boss, Bruce Ratner, serves on the board of Memorial Sloan Kettering so we will take a little credit for helping bring STEM jobs here, even though we always sought to do an entertainment and sports facility and had nothing to do with STEM. That being said; that is a really great development since this all began.

Internships we talked about. We are happy to do programs like that.

As it relates to funding for what I would call off-site developments that aren't related specifically to the work, we are in lease with you guys to do. Those issues have not progressed, obviously, since we've spoken most recently. We'll continue to talk about them, but I have no commitments here.

LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Okay. So let me ask you. Were those concepts, were they considered in Brooklyn?

MS. COTTON: Streetscape projects, no.

LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Not streetscapes. I'm talking about projects outside of your scope. Were projects outside of your scope considered in Brooklyn?

MS. COTTON: No.

LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: So as part of their CBA, their community benefits agreement, that they received, what exactly did the people of Brooklyn get?

MS. COTTON: So I'll remind those that obviously don't know our work in Brooklyn that well. It's a 22 acre site with an eight acre park, a public school, an arena, and 16 housing towers. It's over a \$4 billion project. It is an entirely different scope, in terms of scale and actual substance, from what we're doing here in Nassau. That doesn't mean we're not bringing excellence and community benefits to Nassau, it just happens to be a different project. So the benefits that are proud of in Brooklyn relate to 2,240 units of affordable housing, relate to a school in the base of one of those housing buildings --

LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: We'll take that.

MS. COTTON: and other things.

LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: We'll take that.

MS. COTTON: We're zoned to build entertainment uses and an arena, as you guys all know. If you guys want to engage on a new project, that's obviously for another day.

I guess --

LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Obviously I'm not asking for a new school -- I'm sorry. You weren't done.

MS. COTTON: the items that I wanted to really make sure people understand as they relate to entertainment uses, again, the most comparable thing we can point to between Nassau and Brooklyn is an arena. Tickets, school tours, we were all just blown away by the young people you had here with us today. But you think about entertainment, not all high school kids are going to grow up to either play at center court or, you know, sing in front of 18,000 people. But they are going to be the chefs, the engineers, the sound technicians. We think the arena opens a world of opportunity for the young people in Nassau, which you guys are clearly already doing

and, again, blew us away this morning. But these are the kinds of benefits as they relate specifically to a Coliseum, to an arena that we think are exactly what we're going to bring when we get through this process and get to construction.

Again, today was really about financing. We are happy to talk about benefits; it's, frankly, what I'm employed to do.

LEGISLATOR ABRAHAM: Today you're encouraging this legislature to re-open the lease.

MS. COTTON: I was saying --

LEGISLATOR ABRAHAM: which --

MS. COTTON: Today's financing is really about moving forward and really getting into the dirt.

LEGISLATOR ABRAHAM: Yes. But this legislature can't look at that in a vacuum. What we're deciding to do -- what I'm deciding to do is not just look at the financing. But if we are going to re-open the lease, which is going to provide Forest City Ratner the ability to invest \$31 million into the Coliseum, then obviously the

community should have a stake hold to ensure that if there is a possibility that \$31 million is going to be reinvested, why couldn't the community see a portion of that? Forest City is the opportunity to build a nice facility, they're also getting the opportunity to do it cheaper, that's what this mechanism is doing. If it wasn't doing that, then why are we even talking about it if it's going to cost you more money?

MS. COTTON: So we're investing 160 million in private investment. The \$30 million, just so everyone understands, is 30 million more that we are spending, it's not that we're getting it. We are spending \$30 million more because we think this needs to be a world-class facility and that's what we promised you and that's what we're going to deliver on.

As for do I think benefits should come back to the community? Absolutely. That's why we're here to talk about the letter or any of the other benefits.

LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Ms. Cotton, the community is thankful that Mr. Ratner took the time to write this letter. But I have to be

honest with you. Anything that I can't tell these folks out here that it will happen, I couldn't say that based off of Mr. Ratner's word. I don't know Mr. Ratner that well. I've known him now for the last year and a half. He hasn't given me any reason that he would break his word. But when I have to face these folks in Uniondale, East Meadow or the surrounding communities, it's tied to a binding agreement, which the community benefits agreement would do. When you provided schools in Brooklyn, I'm sure Dr. Lloyd, who is the Superintendent of Uniondale Schools who was outside earlier today, would love the ability to have support to build new schools. Maybe it wouldn't be the amount of money that you provided to Brooklyn -- look. We understand 2.5 billion or \$4 billion in comparison to 130, we understand they are different scales. Clearly, tickets and internships is, by no stretch of the imagination, even close to what -- if we're looking at it from apples to apples, that the Uniondale community deserves in this process. To try to say that we're going to get discounted rates for community events and tickets and the possibility that the

local hiring will includes folks and maybe we'll do a goal of 20 percent on the MWBE, maybe. We'll try.

That being said, all of that being considered --

MS. COTTON: Certainly --

LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMMS: Ms. Cotton, I'm sorry, I wasn't finished. I let you speak every single time.

MS. COTTON: Sorry.

LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMMS: Thank you so much. That being said.

I just find it hard to believe that you expect a community to accept that.

MS. COTTON: So if I could respond. You can certainly have your opinion.

LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMMS: Folks, I'm with you, but that doesn't help.

MS. COTTON: Thank you. Appreciate that.

LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMMS: Continue, Ms. Cotton.

MS. COTTON: Certainly, everyone is allowed to have their own opinion about how good

they think these benefits are. Certainly, if you don't believe they're strong, obviously there are a lot of people in Brooklyn who enjoyed these in a great way, including leaders like Reverend Daughtry and the House of the Lord Church in Brooklyn who administered our ticket program and has given out tens of thousands of tickets to groups in Brooklyn that couldn't have gotten them. If you don't believe these are benefits that the Nassau community is interested in, that's certainly one opinion. We stand by them.

I guess to the point of signing letters and this and that, we don't sign letters that we're not going to follow through on. We're a publicly traded company. We have a corporate reputation that we have to stand by. We stand by the record that we've demonstrated in New York City now for 30 years, and we look forward to bringing that here.

I will say we're not going to respond to all the criticism and the hissing behind us. But the one thing that has been said again and again is that Bruce Ratner, himself, said he would sign a community benefits agreement and changed his

mind. That is obviously not true. You guys all were there. You have the testimony, September 23, 2013. We have the testimony with us. There is absolutely no commitment in there whatsoever.

We understand we can be the bad guys and people can criticize us. But to say that our boss has changed his word on that is absolutely not true. And to say that he is going to sign letters and not follow through with those is just not the company we are.

LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: I appreciate that. Again, this body is expected to vote on a measure which allows Forest City to invest \$31 million in additional resources to \$130 million and still this body is absent of anything that's concrete - you want to call it a community benefits agreement, you want to call it a CBA, whatever you want to call it, this community is absent of having an agreement which guarantees them something in exchange for being the host community for the Coliseum. That's the result.

MS. LESTER: I'd just like to say one thing about the \$31 million --

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Mr. Lester, go

ahead.

MR. LESTER: I'm sorry.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: That's okay. Go ahead.

LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: It sounds like to me that we want -- you want a binding agreement from us by giving you a lease, which I'm sure if we didn't follow through on something, you would come after us on it. But, at the same time, you don't want to give a binding agreement to them. That's why I have a problem with this agreement.

This is a great letter. I'm sure it took time to write, and I'm not dismissing it. But the fact remains none of it is binding. And you want this legislature to enter into a binding agreement but you're not willing to give a binding agreement to Uniondale and that's unfair.

Mr. Lester. And then I have questions on the actual EB-5.

MR. LESTER: I would just like to echo what Ms. Cotton said about our commitment to standing behind the letter. We plan to be here developing the project for many years. It's a long lease. We'd like this to be the beginning

of future development on the site.

I'd just like to add one comment on the \$31 million.

The \$31 million is driving benefits for the people of Nassau, for the people of Uniondale. It is something that we are doing because we believe it's the right thing to do. It's not something that we take lightly. It's an extra \$31 million that we're investing in the project. We're certainly not saving \$31 million through EB-5 or anywhere close to that. But we believe that it's a right thing to do for the project, to make the Coliseum better, to really improve on the design that we presented here back in 2013. So I think it drives benefits for the people of Nassau and it will drive \$17 million or so of spending on labor.

LEGISLATOR ABRAHAM: Mr. Lester, again, I think everyone here - not just up here, but everyone in the audience - wants to see a new Coliseum. I don't think anyone is objecting to that. I think everybody wants to see jobs. As Mr. O'Kane mentioned, we want to see jobs. We want to see economic development. But we don't

want to see anybody be left behind either.

I grew up in this community. I grew up there from 1977 until now. And I can tell you, when I drive down Uniondale Avenue right into Hempstead Turnpike and eventually see a brand new Coliseum and then I see a community that is the host community to this site be left behind, it's not right. To me, to be honest, we have the responsibility, this is a public municipal facility and we have the responsibility that the public and the taxpayers can feel a part of the process, and they're just not.

I want to tie into again the EB-5 program.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Before we get to that, would you do me a favor?

LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Sure.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Deputy Presiding Officer Nicoletto has some questions, and I believe Mr. O'Kane wanted to make a comment. Please, Mr. O'Kane.

MR. O'KANE: Thank you. Once again, before I became the president of Nassau/Suffolk Building Trades is worked with the Ironworkers in

a business management capacity for 13 years. Mr. Ratner, I'm delighted to tell you, that with all the contractors that I work with, he was one of the ones that actually said what he was going to do.

They all tell you what you want to hear in the beginning and everything like that, but Mr. Ratner was the exception to the rule. He did everything in his power to make this project in Barclays work. He spent tens of millions of dollars defending frivolous lawsuits, people with their own interest at heart. He stood with it. I don't know how he did it. I don't think personally I could have done what he went through. Nevertheless, he kept his promise that he was going to make it happen. There was never a problem with his word, not one bit of a problem that wasn't taken care of on a job when it was going on for several years.

I want to instill some confidence in the legislature here that Mr. Ratner is a man of his word. I wish I knew more contractors like Mr. Ratner.

Basically that's it. I support the

amendment to put EB-5 into it. The Coliseum, we want it to be the best and I think we deserve the best. If he can get \$31 million more to put into the Coliseum, my members, representing the members, they want it too, and I hope it happens.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Deputy Presiding Officer.

LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Thank you, Madam Presiding Officer.

I just want to clarify. The concept here that we're allowing you to spend \$31 million, the \$31.5 million is what? Are we allowing this to do anything?

MR. LESTER: The \$31.5 million are additional costs that we are going to be spending on the Coliseum to improve the design and the building from beyond what we had originally presented. It's an enhancement beyond what we showed. And I can get into more detail about the kinds of things it is. It's aesthetics to functional changes to the Coliseum.

LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: So you're putting more money into the renovation of this facility.

MR. LESTER: Correct.

LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: And those \$31 million will make this a better facility for every Nassau resident who goes to attend events there.

MR. LESTER: That's right. For fans. For artists. For sponsors. For everyone. For every stakeholder in the project.

LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: To the extent that you have determined that an additional \$31.5 million is needed for the project, if we start peeling money off that, whatever additional improvements there are to the Coliseum won't happen if you cut 35 to 31 to 21, then whatever it was that you were going to do on the Coliseum to make it a better facility, that doesn't happen.

MR. LESTER: That's right. We need to take a hard look at it. One of the things that we do in the development process is figure out what the right thing to do is, in terms of design, and that's what we did. Sometimes the costs are higher and we determine that we feel it's appropriate to spend more. We also work through ways to fund that, and one way to fund

that is through EB-5 financing. We try to work it through. To the extent that the EB-5 financing is not available, we would need to look at some of these costs and try to peel them away. We don't want to do that, but that's sort of the reality. It's just sort of a tugging situation.

LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Thank you. Just one other point.

Ms. Cotton, if there are those programs to give to community groups who are underprivileged, believe me, there are groups in my district that would be eager to participate in that, and I'm sure everyone else up here.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Legislator Ford.

LEGISLATOR FORD: Thank you very much, Presiding Officer.

It's good to see you again. I thank you very much for the opportunity that you extended to all of us, to go for a walk through the Barclay's Center in Brooklyn to give us an idea of what the increased 31 million will do for the community and for the Coliseum.

Just going with that, because this is going to be an upgrade to some of the work that

will be done, I guess, in the concourse. Correct me if I'm saying everything wrong. Considering that you're going to redesign it - to me, from my limited experience, it looks like it's going to be a more labor-intensive project than if you get the increase of the \$31 million. Thinking of that, how many construction jobs have you estimated that you will have in renovating the Coliseum and how many more do you think would be increased by adding the \$31 million in enhancements.

MR. LESTER: In the county it's about 1500, 1500 to 1600, 1580 prior to the \$31 million, this is in Nassau County. If we spend the extra \$31 million, it's about another 200 construction jobs in Nassau County. It's about 250 in the county and the state; some of the jobs are out of state as well.

LEGISLATOR FORD: That I understand. Considering that, even with union labor, I guess Mr. O'Kane had mentioned that many of the union workers very well will be residents of Nassau County and many possibly in the general area surrounding the Nassau Coliseum, correct?

MS. COTTON: Correct.

LEGISLATOR FORD: I just wanted to revamp. I know when we look at jobs and opportunities that we have, as Mr. O'Kane had said, the construction jobs will last basically for 18 months. But the opportunity of having to renovate the Coliseum will bring many more opportunities to the residents of Nassau County and specifically possibly to those who live in the surrounding areas in the way of jobs, whether or not they're working the box office, if they're working in concessions, correct?

MR. LESSER: That's right. Also, the construction jobs lead to other possibilities. You work on one project and then there's further development or move to other projects.

LEGISLATOR FORD: Right. And then with the training that they do get, it is a career rather than just a limited job for 18 months or 24 months.

Then with the Coliseum being renovated, and I was very impressed with the number of people that even on an off morning there really wasn't anything really big going on, how many

people were actually working at that time. I was impressed by the number of employees then, so I can only imagine during an event how many more people will be working at the Barclay Center.

One of the interesting things, and we were talking about this, is the fact that with food services, that you look to capitalize on the area where you have your venue. In the case of Brooklyn, you reached out, you have a food service person, contractor who will go to the local establishments and try to bring in the flavor. In that case, in Barclay's, they brought in the flavor of Brooklyn. We're hoping that in Nassau County you're going to bring in the flavor, so to speak, of Long Island, correct?

Can you just give us a quick synopsis of how that works and what you actually do, what Mr. Levy actually does?

MR. LESTER: Sure. We contract with an overall food service provider, Levy Restaurants. They worked with us at Barclay's, and we're going to use them here at the Coliseum. At Barclay's, in conjunction with a consultants on our own ownership side, Levy went out and reached out to

over 200 vendors throughout Brooklyn and worked with them to bring in ultimately 55 vendors into the Barclay Center in what we call Brooklyn Tastes. It's really the best of Brooklyn, Brooklyn food. There's a hotbed of culinary food offerings in Brooklyn, and we wanted to bring the best to the Barclay Center, and we'd like to do the same thing here in Long Island at the Coliseum.

In addition, we'd actually like to take it one step further and probably enhance on it by doing healthy options, which is something we currently aren't doing at Barclay's Center but we think it would resonate here in Nassau.

Then also, we're thinking about even further development catering towards the beverage component of it, the wineries of the North Fork, while maybe in Suffolk still Long Island, that sort of thing. Also curated different sort of juices and things like that.

Just a further development on what we are thinking about doing.

What is requires, this is an example of one of the changes, it requires redoing all of

the concession equipment throughout the entire building. So we thought possibly there were some things that could be salvaged but now it's a more robust reconfiguration and it requires additional investment.

So that means that a lot of our local restaurants may benefit from entering into an agreement with the Levy Food Services. If the Coliseum is very successful, if the venue is attracting so many people then we can be ensured of revenue that we will be getting from it and that also -- that perhaps could even provide more and more jobs for people. A lot of times you try to look to people who live in the local area too because they are the ones who are closest and easiest to get to the Coliseum; correct?

MS. COTTON: Yeah. I just want to talk about a little bit as an economic generator.

We think of the arena in Brooklyn, and it will be the same in the Coliseum, as a wave kind of flowing out. This is a really great example of where the guy making the Rice Krispie Treat in Brooklyn that's now selling a little over 18,000 people at a sold out basketball game, that's more

desserts than he thought he would sell in a night at any given time in his small business.

Brooklyn, the taste is all over the map. Spumoni Gardens, Juniors, and Nathans, being institutional players that everybody's heard of in Brooklyn, to Blue Marble Ice Cream and other sort of artisanal very new companies who have grown in such stature, thanks to their partnership with us, it's an amazing thing.

A very small restaurant in the neighborhood I live in, walking distance from the arena, now has a huge sign where, again, 18,000 people walking through on a given night will say what is this restaurant and maybe go there.

The opportunity for continuing to build on this kind of economic success is quite dramatic, we couldn't agree more.

LEGISLATOR FORD: And I think that it is very commendable that you're doing this. I look at this as a blank canvass. We see what had happened in Brooklyn that can happen even to a greater extent here in Nassau County, to the benefit of all of the residents in Nassau County.

I could tell you about a lot of

restaurants you may want to speak to. I'd love to see some of my Long Beach, Island Park, and Oceanside people, some of those restaurant owners having a booth or something up there.

I'm not going to belabor this much longer because I know not only with the food but artists, there are so many other things that can happen there that will be a benefit to everybody here in Nassau County. And I thank you.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: I just want to mention that I took that tour on Friday and was truly amazed. But what amazed me was the fact that I looked at the surrounding area. A few years ago, if you were there before Barclay's Center became a reality you had a lot of empty stores; that was not the case on Friday when we walked through that area. Store after store was now filled. So this is an economic engine not only for Nassau County but I think for the neighboring communities, so we have to look at that as well.

Legislator Kopel.

LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Thank you, Presiding Officer.

First of all, Ms. Cotton and Mr. Lester, I just want to commend you on the quality of your presentation here today.

As a Brooklyn boy, I was born and raised in Brooklyn and spent quite a few years as an adult there as well. I'm very gratified by what's going on downtown all together. The fall off in the surrounding neighborhoods, where it's just magnificent to see areas, it was just a depressed area. I remember. I'm showing my age there. I went to law school in Brooklyn. It was not nice around there. What happens is you've got a snowball effect, where you open up a few nice venues, open a shopping center or two, and we've got that there. Office buildings like to come in, other developments like to come in, and the surrounding areas, the shop keepers all of a sudden become prosperous because there's more business for everyone. It works.

Now, this is not a, per say, this was never a community development project. It was a project for the County of Nassau to redevelop its Coliseum. It's a benefit for the entire County of Nassau. You're doing a great job there.

The more money you spend on improvements -- and I'm not one to way throw money at things - but the more money you're spending on improvements as business people, it's going to make it better. You've decided that those would make it better and we certainly trust that. It can only benefit the entire county and the surrounding area. So thank you.

MS. COTTON: Thank you.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Legislator Walker.

LEGISLATOR WALKER: I'll be very brief. I, too, had the opportunity to take the tour on Friday. I think, too, not only did the Barclay's Center impress me so much and certainly the growth in the community, but just your excitement and enthusiasm with the entire center, with what you have done there and the changes that you plan on putting into our Coliseum here, it just made it so much even more exciting to see it in person there and to anticipate what we have coming here. And for you to realize some of the things that you originally thought would be fine and know you needed to do upgrades, and hopefully with the

additional monies we will be able to do those upgrades. Like I said, your enthusiasm, your energy, and just your excitement just made it so exciting for us. I really look forward to see the work beginning and certainly to its completion and to our having that beautiful place here.

MS. COTTON: Thank you very much.

MR. LESTER: We are very excited.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Kevan.

LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: I think Judy wants to say something and then I'll go.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Legislator Jacobs.

LEGISLATOR JACOBS: Hi. I just wanted to say I have been making the suggestion since we began on this, and the suggestion is the one thing you have in Brooklyn that we're not going to have anymore in Long Island is a team. You have the Nets and you're having our Islanders. For this to really benefit a community that surrounds it you need a time. That's what makes it exciting, that's what gives you the 18,000 people walking by. There are just so many

concerts you can have. A stable team to me is the key.

I know the Islanders have left. But I also know that the Ratners are both in Brooklyn and in here. The truth of the matter is the NHL is not going to entertain a 13,000-plus seat arena. As long as we're talking about what could be and what really could help the outside community, is get those seats up to 17,000. And I'm not talking in a vacuum. Because somebody said to me they're following the same footprint; that's okay. I understand a little tiny bit about construction. But I also know of an arena where they followed their same little footprint and they lowered the ice slightly and they put up all the boxes, low boxes, including a few more seats around it, and guess what? They reached the goal.

I am telling you that if we open it up with 13,000-plus, I just don't know what this gives to the community. I really don't. I'm not saying I'm not in favor of it. I want to see the Coliseum improved. I want to see it done. It's a county thing. We'd like to call it a jewel,

but we haven't been able to in a long time. I don't know why this is falling on deaf ears by everybody. I've gotten so many calls from the community where I live, in Oyster Bay, that what are you doing? You're going to open an arena at 13,000-some-odd seats, you're not going to the NHL, you're not going to ever get the NBA. So I think if you're thinking out of the box a little bit, this is the moment. There hasn't even been a shovel in the ground yet. The Islanders are still playing there, at least for maybe two more games. I shouldn't have said that. I'm a very big Islanders fan. I'd like to think they're playing for the next two months. I hope so. Maybe they're just warming up for us.

The thing is it's something we'd be foolish as legislators not to put out on the floor here. The way it is now, I can see you putting on wonderful programs, but there are a lot of places around here that put in wonderful programs - the Old Westbury Music Fair, the NYCB one, there's a new one that opened up, The Tilles Center, a new one opened up on Post Avenue. You're going to be part of the competition

offering the same thing. You want to be unique. You want to be successful. We want you to be unique and we want you to be successful. Personally, I can't see it happening at this number of seats.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: I'm going to ask Mr. Lester to comment on that. When we were there on Friday that question came up, and I think you had an answer to it. Could you tell us?

MR. LESTER: Okay. A couple of things about it.

The first is I think the concerts really are additive and important. 13,000 seats will allow us to get the biggest and the best artists. For example, last night we had Stevie Wonder at Barclay Center. He's the kind of artist who needs to have that kind of capacity, who won't play at some of the smaller venues. It really is a driver of the economics of the building and the interests of the community. There is a lot of interest, I think, in seeing the concerts.

Two other comments. One is at Barclays Center one of the things that we did is actually

while most arenas were 20, 21,000 seats, we actually scaled it down a bit because we wanted every seat to be full, we wanted the venue to be exciting. We are following sort of same principle here at the Nassau Coliseum because we want the Coliseum to be vibrant, full and have a unique energy.

However, I hear your point about the capacity. Right now the capacity is high as 13,000. However, some of the systems, like the restrooms, etcetera, we're going to be doubling the number of restrooms, will be sized such that later, if we need to, once we do further traffic studies, we could go back to a higher capacity. It's not precluding the ability to do it later, but right now we feel with the current programming mix this is the right capacity.

LEGISLATOR JACOBS: You're never really going to know. You're really never going to know if the NHL would come back, if any basketball team would even entertain -- and, by the way, isn't Barclays 16,000-some-odd seats? I know it is. That's why I reached 17,000, to make us more desirable for Ratner to bring them back here.

MR. LESTER: Fewer for hockey, but yes.

LEGISLATOR JACOBS: For hockey, yes.

And not having any barriers. The one good thing about the old Coliseum -- you could tell I'm a hockey fan. I know that you have to be able to see from wherever you're sitting. And I know from people that you don't see from wherever you're sitting there.

MR. LESTER: I guess what I'm saying is we'll have the ability to put the seats back if we need to, with further study.

LEGISLATOR JACOBS: How much study do you need though? I'm sure that you guys want to succeed. How much more study do you need than to know if you add those few thousand more seats, then you're in the ballpark of trying to bring in a team. I just feel like it's something people are letting slip through their fingers at a time when you're first building. That's all I'm saying. Had to get it in.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Legislator Solages.

LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Thank you very much, Presiding Officer.

My question, first, to the attorneys. John, I asked you last time you were here on March 30 to provide information regarding a community benefits agreement; have you provided that to my office?

MR. MEYER: Yes, I did. I did send an e-mail this morning on it. The community benefits agreement is approximately 73 pages long, when you include in the schedules and appendices. We had boiled it down to a two-page summary on that. Really, when you take a look at it and see the in-kind services that Forest City Ratner was providing to the community, that's what it seemed was appropriate then.

LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Ms. Cotton -- thank you. Ms. Cotton, I understand from your previous testimony engaging in this sort of binding agreement or letter would, you know, is not foreseeable on your part by your company, Forest Ratner. But is there any opportunity in the future that community leaders, including interested legislators, can sit with Forest Ratner and discuss some sort of program. Although, Mr. O'Kane, I believe that these

programs are worthwhile, that they provide careers and opportunities for people to gain a meaningful livelihood, I do think that there are community benefits programs that provide even a larger benefit to what you're offering. And so I would like to know that if there's a future opportunity that we can sit down and please hammer or work out some sort of agreement or an arrangement to get the community involved and have some sort more of a benefit given to the community.

MS. COTTON: I'm happy to sit anytime and talk about all the sorts of programs that we've been talking about here today. The ones that relate directly, again, to the building we are doing, we are more than happy to do that. We're frankly looking to you to tell us these are community groups that have great workforce programs or apprenticeship programs or this and that, these are the kinds of introductions and partnerships that are going to make this really successful.

LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Understood. Mr. O'Kane.

MR. O'KANE: We could expand our program any time you want but we need funding. We got quite a few grants but they don't last long. And what we're doing, we started from scratch. We had to get everything new. Any type of funding that you may want to be able to discuss, maybe we can get into talks like that.

One of the things I wanted to do when I came back up here, I want to extend, to the legislature, an opportunity to come and visit our apprentice facilities. I think you need to see them. I'd like you to go view the other venues that other people say they have, that they don't, and I would like you to compare them. If you thought your trip was worth it to Barclays, I think you'd find it very worthwhile because of what you're going to see. And I would like to do it sooner rather than later because it would be out of session for the summer.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Thank you very much.

MR. O'KANE: If anybody wants to come, if you could work that out, we'll hook up the transportation and we'll make that work.

LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: I have an additional question.

Specifically, the \$31.5 million, what, you know, this investment, what sort of investments are we interested in making? Can you be more specific? Are we talking about upgrading plywood to oak? What specifically?

MR. LESTER: It's a range of things. I'll just sort of talk generally about some of the concepts.

One level is the finishes. But it's really more than that. For example, when you come into the main entry of the building, right now you walk in and you run right into the box office. It turns out now that the box office is sort of less important than it has been historically. People print their tickets online, etcetera. So what we want to do is move the box office to the side, open up a grand entry and have a grand sort of entry experience with a reconfiguring of the team store there into a sort of pizza restaurant area and basically open up the view of the ball, similar to what we have at Barclays Center, so you have kind of a main sort

of entry experience where people can gather and sort of enjoy themselves and say it's an ingress.

Another thing that's happened over the last 18 months or so is the entertainment has evolved. So it's more important now to cater to the needs of the artist. So one of the improvements is going to be in the back-of-house area, in the artist areas. Unfortunately, we need to really invest in the artist area. So improving the area for artists. Some of them like to have Soul Cycle bikes, others like to have golf simulators. It's unfortunate because you're paying them a lot, they're making a lot of money, and, you know, why do you have to invest so much in the rock stars who are already getting so much. But these are the top people who you want coming to your venue so it's important and it's something we need to invest in to really get people to come and play the venue. They're really the drivers of the interest of the facts of Long Island.

LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: And I understand these entertainers have requests, but also the people who will be supporting the entertainment

venue also have requests and concerns. I would like to see some of the requests or concerns honored and respected in some sort of an agreement. And I understand thus far that hasn't been able to happen. But at least a future meeting in which we could discuss some specifics.

Legislator Jacobs had a valid concern. I don't see how the Islanders will tailgate in Brooklyn. I want to see them tailgate here in Nassau County. And we're losing a very important economic engine.

Of that \$31.5 million, what investments can we make to increase the seating, not for the artists but for the constituents, the consumers.

In addition, Deputy Presiding Officer Nicoletto asked if we dedicate a certain amount to a community benefits agreement or some sort of other concern that would leave less from the 31.5 million. The question I'm asking is why are we settling at 31.5 million? If we're getting in bed with China, we at least should have a sizeable, a more significant portion than \$31.5 million. I'm concerned about the accountability and the transparency we have here in amending

this lease. I would like to see more attention to the community's concerns.

Thank you.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Legislator Bynoe.

LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Thank you. It's my understanding that today we're here because there's a request before this body to amend the current contract and expand it to include this \$30.5 million. I listened to you very clearly - closely, rather, and I heard you clearly that there would be some aesthetic improvements to the current plan that's in place for the Coliseum. So my question is why should the visitors to Uniondale have more of a benefit than the people who reside there?

The CBA agreement that they're requesting, to me, I don't think it's unfair. I don't think it's unreasonable. It's just a request that we have something that's in place that provides inclusiveness so their voices are heard, their concerns are heard, their concerns that have been clearly illustrated early today, and also that it's enforceable and the party would be accountable. I think that is what the

Uniondale/East Meadow community deserves. So can you answer the question why we feel it appropriate that those that would visit Uniondale would benefit more than those that would live there?

MR. LESTER: I'll try to answer. Thank you for your comment. I think we're mixing and matching two issues. The first is the financing. The lease, from our perspective, the amendment that we're seeking is really an alternate form of financing; the EB-5 instead of a conventional bank. And we really think of it as almost just one bank versus another bank. As part of that though, we have agreed to increase the investment in the Coliseum because we think we need to. But they've been linked but they don't necessarily need to be linked. So the financing is really what we're seeking and then on top of that we're agreeing to invest the \$31 million into the Coliseum.

LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Okay. So since the two have been linked, right, because the better financing that you can receive the more you can invest in the Coliseum. Why can't we give a

proportionate investment into Uniondale? I don't understand why it's so unreasonable or it's thought unreasonable for us to do that. I don't know why you would think it would be okay to present this letter that has no teeth in it to us as a way of pacifying us. For the life of me I can't wrap my mind around this.

MS. COTTEN: Again, we've said many times that benefits to Uniondale are important to us. Benefits to the Nassau community benefits in general are important to us and something we've committed to. And we are happy to continue to engage, particularly with you, who we have worked with a ton to this date, we would be happy to engage around community benefits. We just don't -- we're not agreeing today to beauty Uniondale and we've said that. And so today's lease is really -- today's amendment is really about changing the financing structure for a Coliseum. And so the benefits as they relate to the Coliseum, we are happy to engage with you on. We think there are many.

We think we can build upon what we've written today. We can build upon our record in

Brooklyn, in terms of benefits relating to the project we're actually building, and we'd loved to do that with you.

The \$30 million is the estimation that we, as a developer with a record building world-class facilities, believe is important to make sure we give you the Coliseum we have promised. And so that number is something that the development team, with the architects, designers, the food concession and all of the details that go into making a building as spectacular as the Barclays Center, happens here in Nassau.

LEGISLATOR BYNOE: So it's my understanding that initially the community did not come out in large numbers or didn't - I should say - oppose the project initially, when there were only enough pieces in a pie to get the job done. So it's the understanding now that there will be an infusion of cash, that now that we're re-opening or we're considering re-opening the contract, that we should spend the time and not push it through today without having the opportunity to have that dialogue that you just discussed. This should be tabled and we should

talk further.

MS. COTTON: Actually, when this body unanimously supported our lease with the County, we were talking about \$130 million and today we're only talking about an addition of 30 million, so there was plenty of investment that we were going to do on the table. I'm not totally sure if that's the point you were trying to make.

LEGISLATOR BYNOE: The point that I was trying to make is that the 130 million that was on the table initially, the community understood that that was just enough to really do the -- you know, to renovate the Coliseum, so they didn't oppose the agreement or they didn't require, they weren't here asking for a CBA. But today, because we know that there is more money in the pot, that there is an opportunity for more investment, to have an upgrade in flooring, a grand entrance. Why aren't we considering today having the grand entrance to Uniondale beautified? Why aren't we considering doing that?

MS. COTTON: So the lease we have with the County relates to renovating the Coliseum,

and that's why we're working today on investing \$160 million in the Coliseum. We have not been engaged to do any more, I guess I've made that point a number of times but I'll make it again today.

As it relates to the retail, the small amount of retail and entertainment uses around the Coliseum and the building ourselves, those benefits we are proud of and we're happy to bring them to the community, and we want to work with you guys on how to execute on those sorts of promises, and that's certainly a record we'll stick with.

The 30 million versus 130 million, projects develop as you go through. Jim will go on and on, and I will turn it to him in a minute, about figuring out how the boilers are doing or how the bathrooms work and things like that. The investment in extra money is because that is what it takes to build the Coliseum you selected us to do, and that is the money that we need to make this the world-class facility that you guys deserve.

LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Are you saying that

in the future you would consider a binding agreement on how we meet the needs of the community, we include the community here and have something that's enforceable and that you're accountable to? Is that what you're saying?

MS. COTTON: I'm not sure if that's what I just said.

LEGISLATOR BYNOE: So short of that, short of that is where my concern is.

MS. COTTON: Okay. We've talked again about the promises we made and that we hold ourselves accountable to them. So as a publicly traded company, as a builder with a record of 30 years already in New York City, and as a company that's going to have a long-term lease in Nassau County, to us that's the binding agreement.

We have an agreement with your constituents and this body to live up to what we've said. We introduced these ideas because we actually want to follow through on them, absolutely.

LEGISLATOR BYNOE: As one of the representatives that is here representing the communities impacted, I would have to tell you

that I feel like I have a responsibility to have more than just your word.

MS. COTTON: Okay. We certainly understand that.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Legislator Becker.

MR. LESTER: Can I say something?

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Mr. Lester.

MR. LESTER: I just was going to say something about the extra \$30 million that we're investing.

There's no more income. It's a 30 percent increase in the cost. So, if you think about it sort of even in terms of your own house or something like that, your income is your income and you're spending 30 percent more. No one really sort of wants to do that but we feel that it's a right thing to do for the building and for the community and everything. So when I present it to my investment committee and the parent company, they are choking on it. It's 30 percent more cost, it's not an easy sell.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Legislator Becker.

LEGISLATOR BECKER: I just have one or two quick comments I want to make.

I just wanted to -- I had the opportunity to run for Congress and meet some of the people in Uniondale. I sort of empathize with much of their feeling, especially expressed by my colleague, Legislator Abrahams.

You know what happens? Historically, we have to take things historically sometimes. Sometimes great promises are made and a community is going to be included from the very beginning and then all of a sudden the parade starts to march and it goes by and they're not included. This is sometimes where the distrust comes from.

But I want to say that Mr. Ratner I think is kind of a different kind of breed of person, and his company as well. I think it's not fair, at least to them at this particular point, to say we're going to walk this agreement back when all they're really looking to do is include financing or change the financing and make a larger investment.

I also heard -- by the way, you made a great presentation, the two of you. I think

you've done very well.

I heard numerous times -- I mean, first of all, we don't even know if there was a community agreement in place, what that would even be. We heard actually today, for the first time, some concepts which I think are really wonderful, as far as Uniondale perhaps benefitting more significant from the Coliseum. I would like to work with my colleagues on the other side of the aisle as one of those people who would meet with you and hammer out some things.

The sense that I get with Mr. Ratner is he is extremely open to any sort of ideas that would improve the community, outside the Coliseum area as well, as sort of Uniondale being the gateway to this new venture. I would love to get something, sit with you Kevan and get some concrete ideas as far as the costs, and then work with you from this side of the aisle, the power of the two sides of the aisle working together to try and see if we can't get something in place and present it to Mr. Ratner that might be able to work within the confines of what he wants to

do.

Once again, I just have to say, Mr. Ratner, it seems to me -- the gentleman from the union, how many times are we here when we have somebody who is a powerful union spokesman step up before us and tell us this man really is true to his word? I think it's important that we have these journeyman agreements, these internship agreements. I want to speak to him to see if those in Uniondale are benefitting from this. We are getting employment in that particular area. They could really use the work, the vision, and the dream of a good, quality job.

I'm just saying that I thank you for your presentation. I would like to work with the other side of the aisle and the folks in Uniondale to put something concrete, present it to Mr. Ratner. I would be willing to say that he would be very open to many of the suggestions that are made.

Thank you so much for hearing me out.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Legislator
Schafer.

LEGISLATOR SCHAEFER: Thank you. I just

wanted to also commend you on your presentation today.

I think that there should be a community agreement. But I've heard nothing but yes from you, I have to say that. I feel like I hear some people almost trying to make you say no, we're not going to agree to it. But I think that I hear yes, that you're willing to sit down and you're willing to do that with people, and absolutely that you should. I think that this is going to be a great benefit to the entire Nassau County, but I think there should be something where everybody is sitting down, especially those legislators that are representing those areas, and decide what's going to work, what they're looking for. If today is the day that we're starting to talk about that, then that's the way it is, then they should move forward, which it sounds to me that you're willing to do.

Please clarify for me, if I'm correct, that our voting on this today for you to agree to put that additional \$31 million into the lease has no effect or not bearing on whether or not you're going to sit down and have a community

benefits agreement. Am I right?

MS. COTTON: I think that, again, there's been confusion about -- community benefits is a big word, obviously. We believe in community benefits, there are many ones that we've agreed to already. There are other ideas that have come to the table that feel like that they are way outside the scope or the project that we've been asked to do here and we're in contract to do. So without talking about specifics, it's a little hard to say yes or no.

We've found that there are many ways to deliver benefits, side letters, agreements with community groups here and there. The mechanism through which it goes, I think some people have a vision for it that, without totally understanding, it's hard to know. A CBA itself doesn't feel like a necessity here, again because there are so many benefits that we're happy to bring to the table without that vehicle. But again, the mechanism is one that we all have different definitions for what a CBA really means. So I think without continuing to talk about it, you may be right.

LEGISLATOR SCHAEFER: Okay. But what we're voting on today has no effect as to whether or not you're going to have -- as to those conversations you may have regarding the community benefits that you are going to provide.

MS. COTTON: Today's vote is just about the financing vehicle that we are hoping can be made available to us.

LEGISLATOR SCHAEFER: Okay.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: I think, Ms. Cotton, I think it's important for the people who are still here to know that this discussion doesn't end today, that we will continue the dialogue with both sides of the aisle and with the representatives from Forest City Ratner. I think communication is key. I think that this is just the beginning for the Coliseum, that there is going to be more construction along the way. I think ongoing communication is going to be the vehicle to get us to where we want to get today.

LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: I know Delia has been very patient. But let's be clear, folks. There's a lot of talk about what the CBA and what the CBA'S in the lease and not in the lease.

Today's our leverage. When somebody wants something then you don't give it to them until you get what you need. So you can talk about we'll continue discussions, and we'll continue to make sure we're talking to folks, but that's all well and good. But today's the day that they want something. You don't give what they want until you get what you need, which is a community benefits agreement.

I will stay here and I will tell you that I don't see a CBA happening if it doesn't happen today. That being said, I think Delia has one comment, and then I want to ask my questions on the EB-5 financing.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Legislator DeRiggi-Whitton.

LEGISLATOR DeRIGGI-WHITTON: Thank you.

I just want to mention something you said before, which is this is almost like using just another bank. I know originally you said you were going to probably use Goldman Sachs; I remember the letter that insured your financing. But there's a big difference between this type of financing and a regular construction type

financing. For instance, do you know approximately interest you would pay a year for the regular construction financing?

MR. LESTER: Yeah, I have a sense of that.

LEGISLATOR DeRIGGI-WHITTON: What would that be?

MR. LESTER: I'd prefer not to disclose our specific terms. I think I have a confidentiality --

LEGISLATOR DeRIGGI-WHITTON: You don't have disclose your specific terms, but I would like you just to give us an idea of how much a normal construction loan would be per year.

MR. COTTON: I think he just said he's not comfortable giving that.

LEGISLATOR DeRIGGI-WHITTON: It's safe to say it would cost a decent amount, a decent percentage. What is the percentage that you would pay under this type of funding that you're coming for today?

MR. LESTER: Again, I'd prefer not to disclose the specific terms of the loan.

LEGISLATOR DeRIGGI-WHITTON: Then I'll

disclose it.

MR. LESTER: But I could say --- go ahead.

LEGISLATOR DeRIGGI-WHITTON: I'll disclose it. The financing that they came here for today is substantially less expensive for the builder. This is all legal. People use it all over. However, there is a huge benefit to the developer in doing this. And the reason why we're here is because we have to agree to this type of financing, whereas if it was just another bank they wouldn't be coming to us. This was not mentioned in the original agreement. It was Goldman Sachs. This is a complete 180.

Now, do we want to hold up the Coliseum? No. We want to see it go. And we would love to see the Islander say, I have to say. However, you're getting a huge, huge advantage by using this other type of financing. All we're asking - and I just have to say this has been a moment for me. I see the leader you have in your Legislator Kevan Abrahams, and I cannot tell you how lucky you are to have him represent you. He has this in his heart and soul. I think every

one of us up here who did vote for you and are now reconsidering the fact that you want to have this finance deal, which is a huge benefit to you - you know what? We're here to consider it. In us considering that for you, we would like to see a very small percentage of your savings. I didn't take the time to calculate the amount of money that you're saving but I know it's more than the 30 million you're putting in. You're making a huge benefit for yourselves, and we're here listening.

How can you not commit legally, on the record and however satisfies the legislator that represents that area, how can you not even agree to share even a small amount? We were talking about one to \$2 million, which is a small percentage of what you're saving by asking us to come here and okay this type of funding.

So that's my question.

MR. LESTER: I can comment a little bit on it. I think there's a little bit of misconception about the amount that we're saving. It's a short-term loan, so five to seven years. Without getting into the specifics of the

interest rate, I would say the savings is one to two percent. It's not even close to \$31 million, not even close.

LEGISLATOR DeRIGGI-WHITTON: For a construction loan you're pay one to two percent?

MR. LESTER: One to two percent savings.

LEGISLATOR DeRIGGI-WHITTON: How much are you paying with this? Are you paying any interest on this type of loan?

MR. LESTER: Yes.

LEGISLATOR DeRIGGI-WHITTON: What is it, approximately?

MS. COTTON: I think what Jim's trying to say is that he's not going to disclose the terms of our deal.

LEGISLATOR DeRIGGI-WHITTON: I think in the fact that we're --

MS. COTTON: But the savings is less than one to two percent, and so it wouldn't add up to the \$30 million that we're investing in it, that's what we are saying here today.

LEGISLATOR DeRIGGI-WHITTON: I think the bottom line is I don't believe that. I know this type of loan and it's much less interest rates.

When you're -- you're borrowing almost all of the money, from what I remember, hundreds of millions of dollars. Even one percent on a \$100 million is what, a million dollars. You're borrowing a lot of money to do this and you're saving it in the interest. All we're asking is that you give a very small percentage to Kevan's district, which is the -- thank you, by the way, for being here all day.

The answer is are you willing to give a small percentage of what you're saving in a commitment -- Kevan, would that be fair to you?

LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Extremely fair.

MS. COTTON: Again, we've said many times that there are benefits that we're going to bring to it. I don't know what your percentage is that you're talking about here today. But again and again and again we are saying that we think Uniondale is going to benefit from the work we're doing, absolutely. We couldn't agree more.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Minority Leader.

LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Thank you, Madam Presiding Officer.

I want to discuss -- and I don't know if,

Josh, if you need to come back up in addition to Ashley and Jim staying there. I do want to ask you a little bit about the EB-5 program.

Obviously it's received a lot of attention over the last couple of weeks. It's very new to many of us.

If I understand you correctly, the EB-5 program is a program that allows investors to invest up to \$500,000, which creates jobs, while, at the same time, the investors get an exchange in Visas for their families. That being said. You had mentioned that EB-5 was used in the Barclays project.

MS. COTTON: In the Atlantic Yards project.

LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: The Atlantic Yards project.

MS. COTTON: Correct.

LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Who was the financial center there?

MS. COTTON: We've worked with two different ones. The one we are proposing to work with here is called a Regional Center. For those who are getting used to the terminology here,

it's the USIF, the US Immigration Fund, and that's who we are going to be working with in Nassau and that's who we worked with twice in Brooklyn.

LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Okay. Who were the other ones that you worked with in Brooklyn?

MR. LESTER: I think it was called the New York City Regional Center. Basically, one of the things that happened with these types of loans is the first regional center that we used, they're just sort of not making loans anymore. They've made some money and they've kind of retired. And since then they've become more common and the interest rates have gone up.

LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: I see. Would the name Nicholas Mastroianni sound familiar?

MS. COTTON: Yes. He's the gentleman that runs the regional center that we will be working with.

LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: He is?

MS. COTTON: Yes. And we are well aware of the news articles about some of his background. If you want to ask us about it, we're happy to talk about it.

LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: I'm going to get to that, Ms. Cotten. Let me ask you about Mr. Mastroianni.

There was a story in October 2014 in *Fortune Magazine*, some would say that's a -- fortune.com, some would say that's a pretty credible resource. It talked about the fact, in that story, which I found a little puzzling. It talked about in that fact -- I'll read a paragraph from the fortune.com story.

It would be hard to find a figure who has risen faster in this burgeoning realm that Nicholas Mastroianni II, in just four years he has developed a lucrative role raising money for marquee projects such as Atlantic Yards, the Giant Brooklyn Development anchored by the Barclays Center and home of the NBA Nets. Forest City Ratner, which is developing the Atlantic Yards, has also retained Mr. Mastroianni to raise EB-5 money for his renovation -- this is the kicker -- of the Nassau Coliseum.

Now how could it be possible this legislature received notification of this proposal in March. How can this be contemplated,

unless this story is inaccurate by fortune.com?
How can this story reflect that this has been a
concept that's been talked about October 14,
2014?

MR. LESTER: October '14 was not very
long ago, I don't think. The financing takes
some time to get underway, to prepare, and to
launch. We have been underway, assuming that
this was going to be sort of an easy approval.
We actually didn't even think it would require
legislative approval. It turns out that it did,
as we looked further into it. Again, we thought
it was a simple sort of change in financing
mechanism and was not going to be a very big
deal.

LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: We are here today
and obviously it does require some legislative
approval, as has been provided by Josh and those
in the County, and so we are here today. It just
seems to me a little puzzling that here we are
today, when this probably should have been
discussed with legislative body back in October.
But let's put that aside for a second. Let's talk
a little bit about Mr. Mastroianni, if you don't

mind.

Mr. Mastroianni -- and I'm reading from the fortune.com story -- has a long history of legal problems, failed ventures, and unpaid debts -- which have been continued even as his professional fortunes have turned sharply upward -- leaving a legacy of conflicts, judgments, and entanglements.

Again, this is because the main law that most of the immigrant investors, most of them, 80 percent Chinese, is getting a Green Card, which is why many are willing to accept little or not return on their \$500,000 investment. So many people are doing this for the Visas. Mr. Mastroianni continued to have personal troubles between 1985 and 1993, where court records show Rhode Island police arrested Mr. Mastroianni, the person that you're going to use as part of your regional financing, four times for a felony possession of a controlled substance. In 1989, the company he founded, Interstate Design & Construction, homeowners and subcontractors complained that Interstate did poor work, did not complete jobs, according to newspaper reports

dating back to 1996. Again, I am quoting this from fortunte.com.

In May of 2000, records show that Mr. Mastroianni's business went into receivership. Banks foreclosed on his office properties and two homes. In 2002, a surety bond sued Mr. Mastroianni to recover costs for completing 28 of his sound proofing jobs and one \$1.1 million in default judgment.

That wasn't the end of his troubles. In July 2013, the list goes on and on, he was sued by the Department of Labor, accusing him of diverting \$401,361 in required employer pension-fund contributions, which were to be made no less than quarterly. The suit claimed that Mr. Mastroianni illegally used the money for various personal expenses and to provide seed money for another business that he owned. He ended up paying the federal government back in 2006, \$75,000.

Again, as I said before, the financial woes personally. Then, to top it off, in Florida, where he has a regional center, I believe, even as legal dragged on in Rhode Island

courtrooms, Mr. Mastroianni relocated to Palm Beach County, Florida, where he began go operate a new company, Allied Capital & Development. Allied specializes in projects with the highest standards of quality and construction standards, according to his promotional materials. Allied's website says Mr. Mastroianni has been recognized for his commitment to excellence in construction, and notes that he has hosted numerous charitable events with both prominent sports figures and political constituents.

I'm going to read as long as it takes. It's on fortune.com. I'm sorry, Mr. Becker, but you should have done your due diligence like I did.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Hold on. I want you to finish and then I'm going to comment.

LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: If I may. I appreciate that Mr. Becker, but I did not interrupt you when you spoke, did I? Thank you very much.

Yet, in Florida, virtually every one of the dozen or so projects Allied has launched over the past decade have faced delays, lawsuits and

contribution problems. Allied has completed few of them.

IN July 2004, a building collapse at Allied's townhouse development in Hobe Sound, named Tranquility, killed two workers and serious injured several others.

Now, I understand that Allied is not the construction manager. I would be hard found and hard pressed to think why would this legislative body consider going into business with somebody that has a scrupulous past like this?

If you do not support the community benefits agreement, which is totally okay, you don't support the efforts of what they're trying to do, I totally get that. But, at the same time, how could you support or how could you support a measure that's going to go into, by the comments that Mrs. Cotten had made that they planned to use Mr. Mastroianni again? How can we go into an agreement knowing somebody that allowed workers to be killed on his site because of not putting in the right protections, with outstanding lawsuits and legal suits?

He had organized labor. Yeah. He did.

2 If you'll allow me to read the whole thing, I'd
3 be happy to read it to you.

4 The bottom line is he has a history of
5 multiple lawsuits by the U.S. Federal Government
6 and the Department of Labor. He has a checkered
7 past. And we are going to use him now for this
8 mechanism for financing. It just seems to me
9 that that would be the wrong approach. To be
10 honest, it's not one this legislature should
11 take.

12 MS. COTTON: We're happy to respond, if
13 you'd like.

14 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: He has --

15 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Hold on.

16 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Just to clarify.
17 He has a checkered past according to fortune.com,
18 as well as the *Daily News Investor* as well.

19 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Mr. Abrahams, I'm
20 not an attorney. But our contract with Ratner is
21 not a contract with Mr. Mastroianni. That's the
22 way --

23 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: But --

24 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: it is.

25 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Madam Presiding

Officer, you are forgetting that we are supporting a mechanism of EB-5 financing, which opens up this lease so that Mr. Mastroianni can come on in. He's a part of this process now.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Josh, would you comment, please?

LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: He's a part of this process.

MR. MEYER: So there are a few comments to be made on that. One is that the federal government has approved that regional center with this individual. Until the county or afore city knows otherwise, he is an approved entity to be a regional center.

I would say that he's a lender. Effectively, there'd be creating a special purpose entity and he'd be a lender. Most of the things that the legislator indicated is that on a construction site or other things. He apparently has a colorful past, I guess. But he's a lender in this instance. So it's not something that I would say would have an impact here.

Also, what we are approving -- or what the legislature would be approving is for Forest

2 City Ratner to utilize an EB-5 investor. If it's
3 not this one, it would be another one. If the
4 EB-5 financing was not successful, Forest City
5 Ratner is still required to obtain the
6 institutional investor as it's set forth in the
7 lease right now.

8 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: If I may finish,
9 Madam Presiding Officer.

10 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: I'd like to turn
11 it over to the public, if you don't mind.

12 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: I would but I
13 think if the public would indulge me --

14 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: I'll give you
15 another two minutes. Go.

16 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Thank you so
17 much.

18 I did want to get into, really quickly
19 Josh, about Mr. Mastroianni. He has an EB-5
20 which is based in Florida, correct? Harborside?
21 He has a Florida regional center? I'm just
22 reading it out of fortune.com.

23 MS. COTTEN: So if you're reading it out
24 of there then we'll agree with you. We're not
25 reading it.

LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Okay. The reason why I mentioned that is because he is not as a contractor or as a construction manager, from what I can gather here, he's been sued as a regional center. Are you aware of that?

MS. COTTEN: We are well aware of this article. We were obviously contacted by the reporter. As it relates to this article, I do not have it memorized so if I am not sure if I'm able to speak in detail to all of the things. We certainly are aware -- I'll just use Josh's term -- checkered past, in this case. However, the USIF, Nick Mastroianni's regional center is approved by the federal government, is on a list to be used. We have worked with him successfully in this sort of work, as have other developers that we're aware of.

LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: I don't doubt the fact that he is approved to be used for this line of work. I just question that this 19 legislative body, knowing this information of this practice of unpaid legal fees, judgments against him, and lawsuits, and obviously his practice as a Florida regional center as well, it

just seems to me to be unconscionable that you would present this entity to us at this time.

MS. COTTEN: So the USIF has been approved --

LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: I'm sorry. I'm sorry. Not to cut you off, Ms. Cotten, just to finish my statement. Without disclosing it.

MS. COTTEN: Without disclosing? We've disclosed --

LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: You haven't disclosed any of this to this legislative body.

MS. COTTEN: We have an approved regional center who has worked also successfully with the State of New York, ESDC, who governs our project in Brooklyn. And in that case, they are an approved regional center working with us --

LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Mrs. Cotten.

MS. COTTEN: and it's approved by the US Government. We absolutely stand by working with them.

Certainly, we understand that there is a checkered past that you point to. We've read the article. We were contacted by the reporter. We're well aware all of this stuff is on the

internet. It's certainly not a secret. We've done two successful raises with him in Brooklyn already and look forward to what I hope is what you guys most want to see, which is we're going to get the financing to do this project so we can deliver on the benefits and deliver on the project that you've asked us to do.

LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Ms. Cotten, everything that I have read, which I am sure you have read too on the fortunete.com story, you don't have a problem with?

MS. COTTEN: It's not for my business. It's what we're relating to today.

As our work with USIF, which we believe to be in really good position, in the work we have done with him there are no problems. That's what's relevant to us today. That's what relevant to this body. The USIF --

LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: No, no, no. Let me correct you. What's relevant to this body is understanding what happened and why this information wasn't disclosed to this body. That's what relevant to this body. We want to know why this information wasn't disclosed.

When we had brought up the question in regards to the regional center it should have been disclosed to us that we were going to use Mr. Mastroianni. If it wasn't, then we could have done our own research. It took us -- it took me going up on the internet and doing a little homework on how Barclays was financed -- I'm sorry -- Brooklyn Atlantic Yards, and then basically come up on these names, or coming up on this name. Which, I got to tell you, this is a 12 page printed out story which is awful.

I know there are going to be people who turn a blind eye and vote for it anyway. But I could tell you right now, I couldn't sleep at night knowing I voted for someone that has done these types of things and is being sued in court like this. If Forest City is prepared to go into bed or to drag this legislature and this county into bed with these folks, then shame on them. But the bottom line is it won't be a vote from the First Legislative District.

Thank you.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Deputy Presiding Officer Nicoletto.

LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Mr. Meyer, tell me again what role this Mr. Mastroianni is going to play in the process. Can you explain it to me again? As you said, he's a lender.

MR. MEYER: Right. So he's a lender on this.

LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: So money is going to flow from Mr. Mastroianni, his clients, or however it works with this arrangement, and then NAT receives the money and then spends it on the project.

MR. MEYER: Actually, there will be a drawdown schedule on that. They wouldn't receive it all at once. They would draw down as they move forward with the project.

As Ms. Cotton indicated, they've had two prior successful capital raises with them.

LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: From the perspective of the county, is there any risk to the county at all? Since the money is actually going to the developer as opposed to the developer lending money to somebody else and being out, and therefore not having the assets to complete the project. Is there any risk here to

the county because of the history that Legislator Abrahams has just brought up?

MR. MEYER: The money comes in to a special entity. It's raised. This money would go out and raise the capital to go into 100 percent financed special-purpose entity, and ultimately it would be no different than if you're going to the bank and there would be a draw-down schedule from the bank. If there is anything that went wrong as a result of that, you'd be in no different position than you would be if you had an institutional investor.

LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: We would be in no different position if something went wrong with this?

MR. MEYER: Correct.

LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Okay.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: I'm sorry.

LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: I just have one more question that's different in regards to the EB-5 financing.

There was a question in the story - either Mrs. Cotten or Mr. Lester could answer this one. There was a reference in the story --

I'm sorry. It wasn't in the story. There was another story, not the fortunete.com. But there was a reference that when you guys did the Atlantic Yards project through EB-5 financing, how much of a stake hold did the Chinese foreign investors have in the Atlantic Yards project? How much do they currently have?

MR. LESTER: There have been three raises. You're talking about through EB-5?

LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Through EB-5.

MR. LESTER: There have been three raises. The first raise was about \$228 million and subsequent raises have been around \$250 million. So about 570-ish overall.

LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: How much is the percentage of the stake hold?

MR. COTTEN: What you may be referring to is that we have sold a stake of the Atlantic Yards project to a Chinese company. That is entirely different than an EB-5 financing program. If you are talking about a 70 percent number in whatever you're looking at, that's different.

LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: So you sold a

portion of the Atlantic Yards. I understand.

MS. COTTON: It happens to both relate to China. But EB-5 is open to any non-American citizen that is interested in trying to bring their family to America through an investment of \$500,000. It happens to end up being China often, and it has been in our case. But there is nothing specifically Chinese about the program. It's a US program. Greenland USA is a Sheng-Hai based developer. It's the largest developer in China, and they are now 70 percent owner of the full Atlantic Yards project, minus one housing building and the Barclays Center.

LEGISLATOR ABRAHAM: I understand.

The 70 percent that you did sell, did you sell it to an EB-5 investor?

MR. COTTON: No. An EB-5 investor is a person. So I went to China and met these families. It's like Mr. Smith is interested in bringing him and his three kids and he puts up \$500,000, and he gets it back when the jobs are created. The 70 percent investor is called Greenland USA or Greenland Shen-Hai when it's in China.

2 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: And they weren't
3 an EB-5 investor?

4 MR. LESTER: Correct.

5 MS. COTTON: They're just a huge
6 development company.

7 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: And they weren't
8 connected at all?

9 MS. COTTON: It's just a huge
10 development company.

11 MR. LESTER: They're two independent
12 transactions.

13 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: I'd like to get
14 to the public, if you don't mind.

15 Mervyn Cambpell, patiently sitting there.

16 MR. CAMPBELL: Good afternoon.

17 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Good afternoon,
18 Mr. Campbell.

19 MR. CAMPBELL: I appreciate the
20 legislature taking some time to listen to us.
21 I'm fire commissioner, M-E-R-V-Y-N - C-A-M-P-B-E-
22 L-L. Forty-five years resident of Uniondale, 37
23 years member of the Uniondale Fire Department, 14
24 years fire commissioner.

25 Today is a sad day but it's a great day.

It's the first in my 45 years I've ever seen a group like this representing Uniondale. We have the churches, the community organizations, the fire department, the school board, the library. You have every face of Uniondale here. We are listening. I think I'm seeing a slight of hand here. We are selling snake oil, that's what we are doing.

We have all confidence in you, the legislators, and I hope we don't rush into making decisions. There is something smelling here and it's not good.

The next thing, we are not here to beg. We are educated people - lawyers, doctors, mechanics, nurses who take care of the elderly. We are seniors who are looking forward to stay in our nice home, nice little home, plant our gardens, not going in the nursing home.

I can remember, with the sleight of hand going on, I was chief of the Uniondale Fire Department. It was my son's birthday. I wanted to take him to the Coliseum to watch the Harlem Globetrotters. I pull up at the gate and they told me I had to pay a fee to park my car there.

I don't get very angry easily, but I said are you stupid? I'm the chief of the fire department. You are going to call me when you have a problem, and you're asking me to pay? I said call the cops and I drove by. I said don't get in front of my car. I hate to be that way.

Please take our interests at heart. These people, they come in our neighborhoods with their big talk. I have sons like them. I have two sons that may be qualified more than them, who grew up in Uniondale. We are not a bunch of fools. When I can't interpret, that's why I pay the big money for them to go to college. It's a slight of hand.

I'm proud to have Legislator Abrahams. I was instrumental in getting him in there. I'm proud. We are going to fight. The fight is not over. Who doesn't take our interests at heart, I'm retired now so I have all the time in the world. I was self employed for 50 years. I'm retired and I'm still walking around. I'm not in bed.

It's not a threat but a promise. If our interests are not taken care of in the proper

manner, we are going to walk every district in Nassau County. I just came out office. I was the president for the Nassau County Chiefs. We are firefighters and we vote. I was the second minority to hold that position.

CLERK MULLER: Your three minutes have expired, sir.

MR. CAMPBELL: Okay. Thank you.

We are on a roll and we are going to keep it that way. Please, I appreciate you having us. And, thanks.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: James Broach.

MR. BROACH: Good afternoon.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Good afternoon.

MR. BROACH: My name is James Broach. I'm a member of the Nostrand Gardens Civic Association. I've lived in Uniondale for about 43, 44 years. I love this beautiful community.

I am in support of GUAAC - that's the Greater Uniondale Area Action Coalition, and it's insisting that Forest City Ratner Companies do the right thing by our community. We are asking this legislative body to join -- I wanted to say my legislator, but in the sake of unity I'm going

to say our legislator, Kevan Abrahams, and hopefully Mr. Gonsalves, who lives in close proximity of Uniondale. I want to encourage you to act as one body, as you usually do quite often, and support those two legislators. They are in favor of Ratner doing the right thing. Let me tell you why I want you to not open or sign to open the lease. Let me tell you why.

First of all, one of the -- any project of this type, usually the developer offers a CBA to the community. I'm not surprised in each of your communities if you have not had some development go on and the improvement is the result of a CBA.

Just by the nature of the legislature, you are divided into 19 districts and that sometimes in itself is a division. But I want to remind you that when there is an improvement in any part of Nassau County, in any of your legislative districts, if there is an improvement in one it is a benefit for Nassau County. We're asking for an improvement in one of the entities of Nassau County, and that improvement we are asking for Uniondale and it's going to benefit

Nassau County. I thought or would think that that would be something that all of you would be interested in voting for.

The other day I exited the Southern State Parkway and I was going north on the Peninsula Boulevard. I turned right at West Grand Avenue in Hempstead. I've been going through that community for years. All of a sudden I saw something different. What I saw was a community of housing with manicured lawns, white picket fences, and I said when did this happen? As I went a little bit further down the street, there was a new magnificent building, the Mercedes Auto Company had built a service center. I inquired about that. What I found out was before they built that building they went into the community and they had a CBA. They improved the houses around that new building. It was an improvement. So my first impression when I turned on West Grand, wow, look at the difference. That was an introduction to that new building.

Uniondale, the Hamlet of Uniondale, there will be thousands of people exiting the parkway, coming from the south shore, coming north to this

magnificent building that's going to be built by the Ratner Corporation. Uniondale is the introduction to that magnificent building.

CLERK MULLER: Your three minutes have expired, sir.

MR. BROACH: That will be the first impression. It would be to Ratner's advantage to put as much as he could in that introduction in Uniondale because it opens the eyes to those who are coming to see the beauty that's yet to behold.

CLERK MULLER: Your three minutes have expired, sir.

MR. BROACH: It is not a giveaway we're asking, it is an investment.

There are other things that are going to be built in that area. When people come in through Uniondale and they see the beautiful Uniondale and then they go and see the Coliseum, when they leave they say this is a community that I would like to live in. It is an investment.

Do not open that lease until you get a written agreement on a CBA. Because if you do, Uniondale is lost.

Act as a body for the benefit, if not of your respective districts, but for Nassau County. Thank you.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Edward Overton. Is he still here? Edward Overton.

VOICES: He's gone.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: He's gone. Okay. Thank you.

Bob Howells.

MR. HOWELLS: Thank you. Good afternoon.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Good afternoon.

MR. HOWELLS: I really have been a lifelong resident of Nassau County. As a son of a veteran, I remember when Nassau Veteran's Memorial Coliseum was opened. I was so proud. I know there must be a lot of veterans in here. I remember that three generations of our family have gone to various events in Nassau Coliseum.

The loss of the Islanders is huge. The thing is that right at this point what we're discussing is that, in all reality, most of the people that attend Islander games come here from Nassau County, some from Suffolk County. It's a

very family-friendly place. There's not a bad seat in the house. Families may come, four people in a car. They go. They can drive directly there. They can park for one fee.

My question is at Barclays how many people are going to take the extra time, spend the extra money, especially a family, to go all the way into Brooklyn? Now, in a couple of years, let's just say, if the Islanders don't do well there, what then?

Mr. Mangano, for example, has said that he would like to see the Islanders return, some of you say the same thing. My big concern at the moment is if we downsize the Coliseum, the 13,000 that Mrs. Jacobs brought up, you're making that almost impossible to do.

The representatives here are saying we have the possibility we can add the seats back. To me that doesn't make sense. You can have the seats, put them in now, it's more cost effective.

Another thing. If you say we have provision maybe for bringing the 16,000 seats back, are you allowing for parking for that? I can just see that. Why don't we put in 13,000,

you want 16,000, oops, we don't have enough parking now. The biggest thing there really is too, even of those 13,000 seats, how many of them are usable seats? By that I mean affordable seats for an average ticketholder as opposed to all the luxury boxes.

Again, please, I've had three generations of my family go through that building. Please make it possible for maybe a fourth generation, not to downsize the Coliseum.

Thank you very much for listening.

Martha Ann Brady.

MS. BRADY: Good afternoon.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Good afternoon.

MS. BRADY: Thank you for the opportunity to speak.

I am a 65 year resident of Uniondale. I grew up in Uniondale while we still had Mitchel Field as an active Army Air Corps base. I can remember as a child seeing some of those planes go over and say, come on, get to the cemetery. There's nobody you can hurt there. I remember the crash on the Southern State Parkway. I remember the flight going off the runway into

part of a real estate building at that point.

We need this community benefits agreement. Our community is going to be upset. As a previous gentleman said, we are the gateway to the Coliseum.

I have worked for this community for most of my years. I am a 55 year lady's auxiliary of the Uniondale Fire Department. I grew up with many of the fire fighters that are here. We need this agreement.

One other point that was brought up, and I think you should look at it clearly, which Mr. Abrahams brought up, was the fact of the liability that association with this Mr. Mastroianni could bring to the county. If something happens is Forest Ratner going to assume that responsibility if somebody gets hurt, if there's an accident? No. The county's got deeper pockets than they have. So keep this in mind, please. Whatever you have to pay out in a liability suit - everybody is sue happy these days. It's a matter of it's not just sue for a million, let's go for 40, 50 million. It's not unheard of. I don't want this on my tax bill.

Thank you for your attention.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Margo Cargill.

MS. CARGILL: Good afternoon. Thank you for having us. My name is Margo Cargill. I've been -- I'm really excited, actually, about the prospect of Nassau Coliseum. People my age, there's not many of us actually here right now, unfortunately, because of time and work and things like that. I'm sure they'd all be here.

I know it's been many years since this project has supposed to started. It stopped, started, and began again. I know a lot of you have been through the process of the start and the stop and you just want it to go forward. But we all want it to go forward in the right way. And I kind of wanted to put a personal note on it, like the rest of my residents and my fellow community members have.

I've been here for approximately 28 years. We moved here as Jamaican immigrants. We moved to Brooklyn, as a matter of fact. My father was a diplomat. My mother worked for the U.N. We chose Uniondale to live because Uniondale was and still is one of the most

diverse communities of Long Island. But I've never really considered myself just a Uniondaler. I consider myself a Long Islander. So when someone asks where do you come from, you always say I'm a Long Islander, Nassau County.

I have a son. He's 13 years old. Our parish is St. Thomas. It's in West Hempstead. It's not Uniondale. It's West Hempstead. It's a neighbor. He goes to Boy Scouts in West Hempstead. He's played soccer for Garden City PAL for Hempstead. Fencing in Merrick. We're all over the place. He goes to school in Old Brookville. Basically, my family is a part of entire Nassau County. It's not just about Uniondale. Yes, it's about Uniondale today but tomorrow it will be one of your towns.

I really just want to reach out to all of you to remind you we're all inexplicably connected and we are all a part of everyone's town. What happens to one of us affects all of us. It is the duty of the legislature to protect our towns and our interests.

If a CBA is good enough for Brooklyn, where I used to live, a CBA is good enough for

Uniondale, where I now live.

It is your job to protect our communities and our livelihoods from those who mean to only take - take our money, take our resources, take our quality of life and leave us with nothing.

It seems to many that Forest City Ratner Companies means to only take. If you think it's only Uniondale that they have a blatant disregard for you are mistaken.

Just to give you some insight into the plain disregard and arrogance of some of the individuals there. I did send an e-mail. I'm on the auction committee of my son's school in Old Brookville, The Greenvale School. And I asked for a simple forward for the contact information for Ms. Cotton -- for the auction, you're all invited, by the way, April 25, The Greenvale Spring Gala -- and I got nothing. Not a response. Not an e-mail. Not a forward. Not even recognition of the fact that all I wanted was the contact information. And this is the type of people we're dealing with. These are the type of people that we're supposed to take at their word, people that won't even respond to an

elite private school on the north shore. They're not going to respond a middle-income south shore community either.

There is zero regard and zero respect for all of Nassau County.

We begged them to properly develop the Coliseum. They chose to downsize it. We understand their financial obligations, fine. But do it the right way.

I don't know what's going on with the Bloomingfeld situation. But one of the conditions of this lease was to place nice with our Long Island companies and developers. And have they? I don't know.

CLERK MULLER: Your three minutes have expired, ma'am.

MS. CARGILL: But it seems to me basically that they're not fulfilling the obligations. They're not honoring -- they're not being honorable. And I ask that you make them honorable and make them do the right thing.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Thank you, Ms. Cargill.

That ends public participation.

Now I think it's time for us to consider the question that is on the floor.

LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Presiding Officer, again, I was just implore this legislative body to take into consideration everything that we have on the table.

Obviously, the story was that in fortune.com is new to many of you. Take the time now today to table this matter so that we can look through this over the next couple of weeks, try to get an agreement for the community while, at the same time, ask the proper due diligence questions about Mr. Mastroianni's past.

As legislators we have a fiduciary right. If you can sleep at night after reading what I read, god bless you. But I ask for a motion to table.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Made by Legislator Abrahams -- hold on. Hold on. We're ready to vote.

MS. BUSCETTA: May I just say something?

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: No. We're in the middle of a vote, ma'am.

Hold on. There's a motion to table made

by Minority Leader Abrahams and seconded by
Legislator DeRiggi-Whitton. No discussion on a
motion to table.

All those in favor signify by saying aye.

(Aye.)

All those opposed?

(Nay.)

The motion to table fails.

Now, young lady, before we take a vote on
the item, would you just state your name on the
record and make a comment?

MS. BUSCETTA: My name is Rita Buscetta.
May I say something?

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Yes. That's why
you're standing there.

MS. BUSCETTA: Thank you. I've lived in
Uniondale for 56 years. I'm here to represent my
family, my two parents, I take care of them,
they're elderly. The one sibling you've heard
about that's only stepping up to the plate. My
father is a World War II vet. Nassau Coliseum,
Nassau Veteran's Coliseum has always been
Uniondale Coliseum and not East Garden City. If
they change that then Uniondale will lose tax

2 cuts and my parents won't be able to afford their
3 taxes, they're senior citizens. And they've lived
4 in Uniondale since 1955.

5 Thank you so much.

6 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Now for the item
7 on the floor, which is Item 2, the -- I've been
8 more than gracious. The protocol is to put in a
9 slip.

10 MS. PETRONE: I understand that. But
11 I've been here since eleven o'clock this morning.

12 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Well why didn't
13 you put in a slip?

14 MS. PETRONE: I did not want to speak at
15 that time. But after spending four or five hours
16 listening to what's going on, I now --

17 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Would you go to
18 the mic and get it over with? Come to the mic.
19 Put in a slip when you want to come up to speak.
20 We don't have a record of it.

21 MS. PETRONE: I know you don't. I will
22 be more than happy to fill out a form for you.

23 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Just do what you
24 have to do, please. State your name for the
25 record.

MS. PETRONE: My name is Dora Petrone. I've been a resident of Uniondale for 60 years. Kevan, I want to thank you. And I want to also thank all of you for listening to four, five, six hours of what's been going on. My question is to Ms. Cotten.

I'm sure we've all read, I'm sure you've all heard it's been approved. From what I understand it's been approved about the Memorial Sloan Kettering building or facility that's going to be built on the Coliseum property. Is that true?

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: It's not. This is something that has been done with the county and not with Forest City Ratner.

MS. PETRONE: So the Memorial Sloan Kettering, which you mentioned before Ms. Cotton, has nothing to do with you guys?

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: No. No.

MS. PETRONE: Okay. At another meeting that I went to, I believe it was in September 2013, with you, Ms. Cotton, at Hofstra, we had talked about a CBA. We went through lists of restaurants, trainings, everything that we went

through. What happened to all of that? What happened to what you presented as we were going to go with a CBA? What happened to all of that two hour meeting, three hour meeting that we had?

MS. COTTON: It's not my turn to testify.

MS. PETRONE: I'm just asking a question.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Ms. Cotton, would you want to respond?

MS. COTTON: No.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: I'm not going to put you on the spot. Trust me, I'm not.

Obviously, if she had some information to offer you, she would give it to you.

MS. PETRONE: Thank you.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Item 2, Ordinance 33, an Ordinance authorizing the county executive, on behalf of the County of Nassau, to execute an amendment to the lease between the County of Nassau, as landlord, and Nassau Events Center LLC, as tenant, of certain premises located in Uniondale, Town of Hempstead, County of Nassau, State of New York, said property known

as Section 44, Block F, Lots 403 and 351 on the land and tax map of the County of Nassau, and authorizing the county executive to execute all pertinent documents in connection therewith to consummate the lease.

All those in favor signify by saying aye.

Oh. The item, as amended. Sorry. And we did amend the item initially. So, the item, as amended, all those in favor signify by saying aye.

(Aye.)

Any opposed?

(Nay.)

We have 17 to 2. Therefore, the item passes.

I'm going to ask that we take about a five or ten minute recess, and there's a reason for it. We have one more item.

Item 14, Ordinance Number 45, a bond ordinance making certain determinations pursuant to the State Environmental Quality Review Act, providing for a capital expenditure to finance the payment of judgments compromised or settled claims resulting from court orders on proceedings

brought pursuant to Article 7 of the Real Property Tax Law and determinations of the Nassau County Assessment Review Commission pursuant to Section 523-b of Article 5 of the Real Property Tax Law, in the County of Nassau, and authorizing bonds of the County of Nassau to finance said expenditures in an amount not to exceed \$61,200,000, pursuant to the Local Finance Law of New York and the County Government Law of Nassau County.

Motion, please?

LEGISLATOR RHOADS: So moved.

LEGISLATOR WALKER: Second.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Moved by Legislator Rhoads, and I'm going to say seconded by Legislator Walker.

There being no discussion on the item as stated earlier; all those in favor of Item 14, Ordinance 45 signify by saying aye.

(Aye.)

Any opposed?

(No verbal response.)

The item passes unanimously.

Thank you very much.

Mr. Muller, would you call the emergencies, please? We have two of them.

CLERK MULLER: Presiding Officer, we have a resolution which is the recommendation of at least 13 members of the Nassau County Legislature, at the meeting of the Legislature on Monday, April 13, 2015, setting forth that an emergency exists for consideration of and immediate action upon certain ordinances and resolutions referenced with Clerk Item 105-15, a resolution to authorize a tax exemption and PILOT agreement between the County of Nassau, Pond View Homes 1 Housing Development Fund Company, Inc., and North Hempstead Housing Authority.

Do you want me to call both of them at the same time?

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Yeah, do the both of them, please.

CLERK MULLER: The second emergency we have is under Clerk Item Number 132-15, a resolution authorizing the county executive to execute an amendment to an inter-municipal agreement with the Village of Freeport in relation to a project to procure and install

security cameras in the Village of Freeport.

Both emergencies have been signed by the
19 members of the Legislature.

We need a vote to establish the emergency
and the underlying items.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Motion?

LEGISLATOR DUNNE: So moved.

LEGISLATOR WALKER: Second.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Moved by
Legislator Dunne, seconded by Legislator Walker.

All those in favor of establishing the
emergency signify by saying aye.

(Aye.)

Any opposed?

(No verbal response.)

The emergency is established.

CLERK MULLER: Resolution 68-B, a
resolution authorizing the county executive to
execute an amendment to an inter-municipal
agreement with the Village of Freeport in
relation to a project to procure and install
security cameras in the Village of Freeport.

Resolution 68-A, a resolution to
authorize a tax exemption and PILOT agreement

between the County of Nassau, Pond View Homes 1
Housing Development, Inc., and the North
Hempstead Housing Authority.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Motion, please?

LEGISLATOR DUNNE: So moved

LEGISLATOR WALKER: Second.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Moved by
Legislator Dunne, seconded by Legislator Walker.

Any discussion?

(No verbal response.)

Any comments regarding that item?

(No verbal response.)

There being none; all those in favor
signify by saying aye.

(Aye.)

Any opposed?

(No verbal response.)

The item passes unanimously.

CLERK MULLER: Presiding Officer, we
have a procedural resolution, which is Procedural
Resolution 3, a resolution directing the Clerk of
the Legislature to publish a Notice of Hearing on
the application of Locust Valley Cemetery
Association, Inc., to be held on June 15, 2015.

Just to make sure that everyone knows, the newspaper advocating this hearing will be paid for by the Locust Valley Cemetery Association.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: I would like the second emergency item to be called separately.

CLERK MULLER: Okay.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Thank you.

CLERK MULLER: A resolution to authorize - the second emergency, 68-A, a resolution to authorize the tax exemption and PILOT Agreement between the County of Nassau, Pond View Homes 1 Housing Development Fund Company, Inc., and the North Hempstead Housing Authority.

CLERK MULLER: I called Freeport. Did I do that wrong?

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: I'm sorry, Kevan. I thought we were going to do something today that was a little different, but it's not.

Motion to establish that -- not to establish -- to approve the second emergency, which is the housing in North Hempstead.

All those in favor?

(Aye.)

Was there a motion made? Okay. We did.
We voted on it. We're going to do it again.

All those in favor of that item signify
by saying aye.

(Aye.)

Any opposed?

(No verbal response.)

I'm happy for the record that you are all
so happy.

Now for the procedural resolution.

CLERK MULLER: We have a procedural
resolution, which is Procedural Resolution 3, a
resolution directing the Clerk of the Legislature
to publish a Notice of Hearing on the application
of the Locust Valley Cemetery Association, Inc.,
to be held on June 15, 2015.

LEGISLATOR MACKENZIE: So moved.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Moved by
MacKenzie, seconded by --

VOICE: Excuse me. Can you just explain
what this one is?

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Please do. I
think there's a little confusion.

CLERK MULLER: It's a procedural

resolution to set a schedule for advertising for the Locust Valley Cemetery to purchase additional property to expand the confines of the cemetery. This is just the resolution to allow them and to set the date of the hearing for that. The hearing, he mentioned earlier, is set for June 15, 2015. This permits them to advertise that hearing.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: The motion was seconded by Nicolello.

Any questions?

(No verbal response.)

Any comments?

(No verbal response.)

And you did have a question.

It's required under State Law.

All those in favor signify by saying aye.

(Aye.)

Any opposed?

(No verbal response.)

The item passes unanimously.

A motion to adjourn, Mr. Becker?

LEGISLATOR BECKER: So moved.

LEGISLATOR WALKER: Second.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: All those in favor say aye.

(Aye.)

Any opposed?

(No verbal response.)

The meeting was adjourned.

(Whereupon, the Full Legislature adjourned at 5:23 p.m.)

MR. KENNY: Thank you for the opportunity to speak, even at the conclusion. I appreciate it. My name is John Kenny. I live adjacent to the sewage treatment plant at Bay Park in East Rockaway. I'm sure you're probably familiar with it. It's been a topic of much conversation, funding to the tune of \$850 million to improve it. You're probably also aware that we suffered -- the county facility suffered major issues related to Hurricane Sandy, Super Storm Sandy.

The house generators which supplied power to the plant were knocked out by that. They had been in some state of disrepair for a number of years, neglected.

For a period of two years they weren't

operational. In fact, I just want to call attention to a legislative hearing of March 20, 2014. So over a year ago, Representative Denise Ford asked the question of some of the people who were here representing the construction consortium -- that's Hazan, Sawyer, and Arcadis. Mike DeNicolia, who was giving testimony at that time, in response to Legislator Ford's question about the terrible noise that the community was suffering because of temporary generators that were still operating some 18 months after the event. In response to that -- I will just go and look at the record here -- he states: Mr. DeNicolia: That we have 90 decibels at the fence line. I live about 100 feet from the fence line. There are a lot of residents that are close to that fence line. 90 decibels at the fence line. Now that spring and summer are coming we're going to put in sound attenuation baffles. That was never done. Those generators operated all through last summer, so April, May, June, July, August, September, October. It wasn't until the anniversary of Sandy that they were shut off. I'll tell you this. If you go

down there today, those generators are running again. They're temporary generators. And if I open up my window to talk to you on the phone, you won't be able to hear me.

I pulled an article out of the *Daily News* where Tony Avello - he's a state senator for Queens, represents Bayside, complaining about airport noise. Again, airport noise over Bayside is intermittent. It's not what we have, which is a freight train that never actually gets to the station. But if you stand on the station here at Mineola and you hear that train coming, and it's a diesel coming out of Oyster Bay, you'll know that it kind of rocks your world as it goes by. That's what we've got. The train never comes by. It runs 24/7. There's been no attempt to put any sound attenuation baffles. There's been no attempt to alleviate that. Anyway.

Going back to that article. There's a quote here. He quotes it at 91 decibels. 91 decibels is what the FAA website states that the noise level was coming in, after Mr. Avello's inquiry regarding the news in Bayside. The CDC states that anything about 85 decibel levels is

hazardous to your health and you should wear ear protection. There was a young lady who was here from I believe it was Great Neck Schools, and she did a wonderful job, as we're proud of all of them. Her particular social science experiment was the trolley experiment. I would put forth to you that the trolley experiment that Nassau County is running on my community is to see how much we can endure.

We call up. Now that United Water has taken over we get promised there's going to be meetings. The meetings are cancelled. There is no public notification. We get promised they're going to clean the streets. You call United Water and they say that sounds like it's a matter for Nassau County. You call Nassau County and they say it sounds like it's a matter for United Water. So it's management through silos taken to the umptth degree.

CLERK MULLER: Your three minutes have expired, sir.

MR. KENNY: We feel like we're the experiment. That's what I had to say.

Thank you very much.

LEGISLATOR FORD: Mr. Kenny.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Mr. Kenny, first of all, thank you very much for staying.

LEGISLATOR FORD: You're entitled to have your say. You sat here through everything.

Just to let you know, my assistant did call. You really are very calm with the situation that you're going through right now.

When we have those meetings, even when we did the tour of the plant and we had another meeting at night with the Bay Park Civic Association, they were telling us that this work was going to be continued, so forth and so forth. The backup generators were shut down then, in October and of course during the cold winter when everybody's windows were closed and the generators were working.

Rich Millet is getting me the information as to why those generators have failed and why you're on the backup. I've also requested, basically demanding, next week I'm going to be out there, and I expect United Water as well as DPW to meet with me. I'm going to call upon probably the head of your civic association to

join me to make sure that I truly understand. I want to know what work has been done so far and what work still needs to be done, to the benefit of the community.

I'm very dismayed. When I attended that meeting United Water did promise that they were going to have continuous community meetings. I know there is going to be a walk through at the end of this month on the 27th or 28th. I forget which day it is. I intend to be there for that as well. But I do want to meet next week. I want to get a handle on this. I don't understand why a lot of this has not been done. I'm actually furious over it. We will keep following up on this because I'm not going to let go.

You know what? When I think about last year when they promised we'll get it done, now it seems that I'm going to have to start making weekly visits to this place just to make sure that they are doing what they are supposed to be doing.

MR. KENNY: Thank you very much. Any efforts in the larger legislature, part and your part particularly. Mr. Kopel, I don't see him

here now --

LEGISLATOR FORD: He was here.

MR. KENNY: he knows the situation.

LEGISLATOR FORD: We've all been moved around.

MR. KENNY: We're not particularly -- and that's one of the problems is that the Bay Park Civic Association, which you alluded to, doesn't represent the area that I'm a part of. We're not part of that group. In other words, they represent the western border of the plant.

When I was over there today, you really can't hear the generators from that side. Part of what's been a problem is the county is very good at informing the Bay Park Civic Association --

LEGISLATOR FORD: But it's not getting around.

MR. KENNY: it doesn't get to the larger community that's affected even more greatly.

LEGISLATOR FORD: Thank you for the update.

MR. KENNY: We're withering on the vine down there. Basically people are moving out.

People don't call anymore because they're fed up and they really feel that socio-economically we're kind of not the highest on the radar, and we kind of feel like we're the trolley experiment and we're getting run over.

LEGISLATOR FORD: You know what? I want to spare you from having to come down here and spend six hours of your life. I'd rather have it so that we're working on this. I'll make sure that we have your contact information.

Please, tell the residents, call my office, 571-6204. I represent that area. I'd like to say I know everything but I don't. We rely upon our residents to let us know if things are not being done. If you have any issues, any problems, I need to know, and we will respond accordingly.

I want you to know that I will be down there next week. If I have to make a surprise visit, I'll make a surprise visit. I really don't care. I want to get to the bottom of this.

MR. KENNY: Thank you very much. Those generators were running last week before the holiday. They went out on Good Friday, right

2 before Passover. Nobody calls because we're at
3 the end of our ropes.

4 LEGISLATOR FORD: Right. I want to find
5 out why you weren't called.

6 Figures. Cold winter. Shut windows.
7 The generators worked. The first nice day that
8 you could open up your windows and the backup
9 generators -- it is like they're punishing you.
10 It's like, you know, how much more can we take
11 from you? I want to stop this.

12 MR. KENNY: Thank you for your time.
13 Thank you for your interest.

14 LEGISLATOR FORD: You're welcome.

15 (Whereupon, the Full Legislature ended at
16 5:37 p.m.)

C E R T I F I C A T E

I, FRANK GRAY, a Shorthand Reporter and
Notary Public in and for the State of New York,
do hereby state:

THAT I attended at the time and place above
mentioned and took stenographic record of the
proceedings in the above-entitled matter;

THAT the foregoing transcript is a true and
accurate transcript of the same and the whole
thereof, according to the best of my ability and
belief.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my
hand this 11th day of May, 2015.

FRANK GRAY